

INTERNATIONAL

Rishi Sunak in danger of losing his Premiership

LONDON: Rishi Sunak, 42, the Indian-origin British Prime Minister, is fighting with his back to the wall to save his premiership as well as his political career. Sunak, who has staked his future on passing an immigration bill in the British Parliament, which, he thinks, will ensure asylum seekers to the United Kingdom are sent to Rwanda and consequently deter such people from illegally coming to Britain. The United Kingdom has signed an agreement with Rwanda to despatch illegal immigrants to the east African country. Summoning a media conference on Thursday, he told journalists the bill will make prospect of courts blocking any deportation decision "vanishingly rare". He said: "That means that this bill blocks every single reason that has ever been used to prevent flights to Rwanda from taking off." Three weeks ago, the UK's Supreme Court struck down



the move as in its view, the policy was unlawful, violated human rights, among other contraventions. It also felt Rwanda was not a safe place. Commenting on this, Sunak said: "You had better believe we've blocked those too (in the bill)." He emphasised the UK was also willing to ignore injunctions from the European Court of Human Rights. However, passage of the bill in the House of Commons next week has boiled down to a confidence vote on Sunak. The

disappointing the European convention on human rights in entirety. The Guardian newspaper commented: "It is not yet clear whether his (Sunak's) legal arguments are as robust as his rhetoric, and today he sounded more uncertain and defensive than he did when going over this ground last month". The Daily Mail and the Sun, both generally supportive of the Conservative party, asked questions at the media conference which reflected doubts in their minds in the matter. Braverman has behaved like a woman scorned since her dismissal from the cabinet. She, first, made public a searing letter written to Sunak. Following that, she has been suspected on British media of plotting to unseat Sunak. She was asked: "Isn't the truth that you're a headline grabber that does it by spreading poison even in your own party?" She answered: "The truth is... I sought to be honest and

Biden expresses concern over Israeli hostages in Hamas custody



US President Joe Biden has expressed deep concerns about the 135 Israeli hostages who are in the custody of Hamas. Biden has, according to Israel PMO, reiterated the position of the US that the Red Cross be allowed to visit the hostages and take stock of their physical and mental health. The White House in a statement said, "He noted that it was Hamas's refusal to release young women civilian hostages that led to a breakdown in the humanitarian pause. The leaders agreed to remain deeply engaged to pursue every possible opportunity to free the remaining hostages."

Israel to increase fuel supply to Gaza



The Israel security cabinet has voted in favour of the country's decision to allow more supply of fuel in Gaza. This was announced by the Israel Prime Minister's office on Wednesday night. However, two ministers of the security cabinet, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir, voted against this. The two ministers are considered far right leaders and are known for their hawkish positions. It is to be noted that the US has been putting pressure on the Israeli government to increase the supply of fuel into the Gaza strip.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed to remain in regular consultation both directly and through their respective national security teams"

lian population from Hamas including through corridors that allow people to move safely from defined areas of hostilities. "President Biden reiterated his concern about extremist violence committed against Palestinians and the need to increase stability in the West Bank. "The President and the Prime Minister agreed to remain in regular consultation both directly and through their respective national security teams. It may be noted that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has been involved in a ground invasion in Gaza since October 27 after Hamas terrorists attacked Southern Israel and slaughtered 1,200 people, including children, women and elderly and took hundreds as hostages.

The US has asked Israel to allow a supply of 1,80,000 litres of fuel daily as against the present supply of 60,000 litres per day. The Israel PMO in the statement said that Israel would allow a minimal amount of fuel per day that was required to prevent a humanitarian collapse and spread of epidemic in South Gaza strip.

New multipolar world order to replace unipolar system: Putin

A more just multipolar world order will inevitably replace the old unipolar system, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a ceremony as he met with 21 new foreign ambassadors and received their diplomatic credentials. "The world is in a state of turbulence and is undergoing a radical transformation. An underlying trend however is the fact that the previous unipolar system is being replaced with a fairer multipolar world order," he said on Monday. Putin called this transition an "objective process" which is also "irreversible". Xinhua news agency reported.



Israel expands ground operation to south Gaza: IDF chief

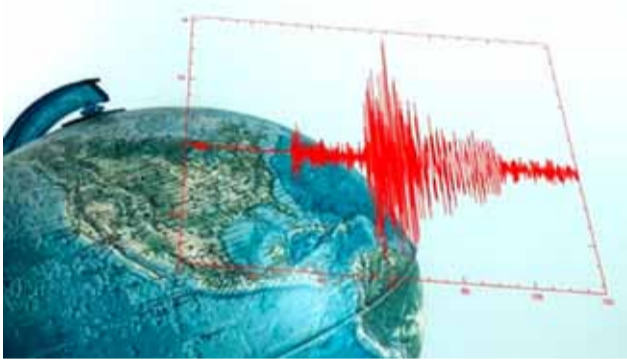
JERUSALEM: Israel's military chief Herzi Halevi has said that the military has expanded the ground operation against Hamas to the southern Gaza Strip, an area previously considered as a "safe zone". "We fought strongly and thoroughly in the northern Gaza Strip, and we are also doing it now in the southern Gaza Strip," Halevi, the chief of the General Staff of Israel Defense Forces (IDF), said on Sunday during a tour at Israel's Gaza Division outside the besieged enclave, according to a statement released by the military. He said that the Israeli ground troops, in combination with air and sea forces, have almost completely "dismantled" two Hamas brigades, killing brigade commanders, company commanders, and "many" operatives, Xinhua news agency reported. Halevi said that on Saturday morning, a day after a fragile seven-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas had collapsed, the forces "started the same process in the southern Gaza Strip." He vowed that the offensive in the



southern Gaza Strip "will be with no less strength than that, it will be with no fewer results than that, and Hamas commanders will meet the IDF everywhere in a very, very strong way." Halevi added that the offensive in the northern Gaza Strip would continue with full force. The expansion of Israel's ground operation has heightened concerns over the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "People have lost everything, and they need everything," the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), wrote on the social media platform X. "Gaza's population will soon begin dying from diseases as well as Israeli bombardment," the agency warned. Meanwhile, rocket fire from Gaza continued on Sunday, targeting mainly southern Israeli communities. Rockets and anti-tank missiles were launched at northern Israel from Lebanon, lightly injuring at least four people in the community of Beit Hilel in the Galilee, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service.

5.2-magnitude quake rocks Philippines

A 5.2 magnitude earthquake jolted Mindanao island in Philippines on Wednesday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The quake that hit the island at 0155 GMT was epicentred 8.67 degrees north latitude and 126.69 degrees east longitude, and its depth was 10 km. Xinhua news agency reported.



Indian students to suffer as Canada doubles fund requirement for study visa

OTTAWA: Canada's decision to double the amount of money that international students need to show to get a study visa will impact students from India the most as they make up about 40 per cent of all international students in Canada. To get a study visa to Canada, a student currently needs to show \$10,000 in his or her account for covering the initial cost of living. But from 2024, the students will have to show at least in their \$20,635 account on top of their

one-year tuition fees. If students bring one family member with them, they will need to show an additional \$4,000. Of about \$8,000,000 international students currently studying in Canada, 3,20,000 are from India. Students from Punjab roughly make up about 70 per cent of them. Making this announcement on Thursday, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said, "Ahead of September 2024, we are prepared to take necessary measures, including significantly



limiting visas, to ensure that designated learning institutions provide adequate and sufficient student support."

Since the huge influx of international students has caused a housing crisis, the minister said, "It would be a mistake to blame international students for the housing crisis. But it will also be a mistake to invite them to come to Canada with no support, including how to put a roof over their heads. That's why we expect learning institutions to only accept numbers of students that they're able to provide for, able to house or assist in finding off campus housing." Promising to shut fraudulent

colleges that have sprung up across Canada to lure international students, the minister said, "There are, in provinces, the diploma equivalent of puppy mills that are just churning out diplomas, and this is not a legitimate student experience. There is fraud and abuse and it needs to end." Threatening to reduce study visas, he said, "If provinces and territories cannot do this, we will do it for them and they will not like the bluntness of the instruments that we use."

Under the Shadow of Tactical Nuclear Weapons, Israel-Hamas War in a Decisive Mode

GOPAL MISRA There is a growing apprehension worldwide that with the Israel-Hamas War entering the third month, hostages being exchanged and the four-day ceasefire ended, the desperate Hamas and its patrons, including Iran might use tactical nuclear weapons. It is being discussed among the defence planners that the nuclear devices, which could yield 3 kiloton of explosive energy is much useful in a limited conflict such as the Russia-Ukraine War and now Israel-Hamas conflict entering into an unprecedented fierce phase. Iran accusing Israel killing its soldiers in Syria has added a new dimension in the ongoing conflict. It may directly intervene or could provide tactical nuclear weapons to the terrorists, who are facing existential crisis in the war. Meanwhile, the US Congress has passed a controversial resolution defining anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism is considered yet another effort for justifying Israel's "revenge" action against Hamas. Interestingly, US President, Joe Biden's administration is facing dilemma, while it condemns the notorious behaviour of the "extremist Jew settlers" on the occupied West Bank, imposes visa restrictions on them; however, during the voting Democratic Party fails to oppose the resolution in the



Congress. It was passed by a thumping majority Most of the Democratic Party members abstained. On December 5, the House of Representatives had passed it by a huge margin in a 311-14 vote, with 92 Democratic members abstaining. Interestingly, Joe Biden was seen giving graphic details of the Hamas attack on October 7 at a fund-raising meeting for his party on December 5 in Boston. He was seen detailing the audience with accounts of "unimaginable cruelty", and further stated there were reports of women violated, repeatedly raped, and their bodies being mutilated while still alive. He also expressed his anguish on women's corpses being desecrated, and further added that Hamas terrorists have been inflicting as much pain and suffering on women and girls as possible and then murdering them. **Iran Joining the Conflict:** It is true that Israel has ramped up its bombardments across central and southern Gaza. The civilian casualties are mounting up, as Gaza hospitals facing a Herculean task to save the lives of civilians. It is also being stated



that Hamas terrorists hiding in the tunnels are using the innocent Palestinians as a human shield. It has naturally perturbed Iran, but much depends whether it has obtained the tactical weapons from its patrons, especially China and North Korea. It is also stated that at present, the United States, Russia, and China possess smaller numbers of non-strategic (or tactical) nuclear warheads that are not subject to any treaty limits. The UN agencies have been closely watching Iran's nuclear programme, but Tehran's reluctance to allow UN inspectors to visit all nuclear facilities has caused anxiety worldwide about Iran violating the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). About 14 years ago in 2009, the UN had built a seismic monitoring station in Turkmenistan near its border with Iran, to detect tremors from nuclear explosions. On the basis of its reports the UN Security Council had demanded Iran freeze all forms of uranium enrichment. Iran's arguments was that the demand 'unfairly compels' it to abandon its rights under the NPT to peaceful nuclear

technology for civilian energy purposes. During the last 14 years, there have been numerous reports regarding Iran's quest for nuclear arsenal, but it has been denying such allegations. It is true that Zongzo Saidou, a sanctions advisor for the U.N., had stated that as far as he knew, none of the U.N.'s member nations had alerted the sanctions committee about allegations of sales of uranium to Iran from Kazakhstan. The intelligence reports, however, had claimed that some rogue employees of Kazakhstan were prepared to sell Iran 1,350 tons of purified uranium ore in violation of UN Security Council sanctions. Interestingly, both Russia and Kazakhstan had promptly denied such reports. In September 2011 Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported several statements about Iran's nuclear program and China's foreign policy in the Middle East. Yin Gang of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has expressed his opinion on China policies toward region, and according to Haaretz he made surprising statement: "China is

Climate Action Forum: Indiaspora Convenes Climate Experts at COP 28

The daylong Forum will address critical climate change issues and highlight innovative projects and initiatives by the Indian diaspora that contribute to global sustainability efforts

WASHINGTON/DELHI: Indiaspora, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting the Indian diaspora for a stronger, more interconnected global community, is hosting the Climate Action Forum at COP 28 on December 7th from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM at the Anantara Downtown Dubai Hotel, Business Bay, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Climate is the existential issue of our times. The Indian diaspora contains reputed experts contributing to solutions in various areas of environmental sustainability and climate change. Moreover, as evidenced during the recently concluded G20 Summit, India is playing an instrumental role in developing solutions in this realm. As part of Indiaspora's mission to inspire and position the global Indian diaspora as a force for good, and to build bridges among diaspora leaders and prominent leading lights resident in India, Indiaspora is privileged to serve as a platform to bring diverse and constructive voices together during COP 28. Indiaspora will host its day-long Climate Action Forum featuring 28 speakers from 5 countries under the theme of "Empower, Educate, Inspire, Act." Distinguished speakers

from various sectors, including government, industry, and civil society, will participate in engaging panel discussions on topics such as sustainable technology, green finance, renewable energy, and the role of diaspora in climate advocacy. Key speakers include Dominic Waughray (World Business Council for Sustainable Development), Madhav Pai (WRI-India), BK Sister Jayanti (Faith Leader) and Vivek Oberoi (Indian Film Actor). Our partners in this endeavor are Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEWW), Dasra, India Climate Collaborative, Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN). MR Rangaswami, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Indiaspora, said, "This Climate Forum represents another step in Indiaspora's objective of being a convener for the Indian diaspora and leaders in India on some of the most pressing global issues. From our earlier work on climate, it is evident to us that these key stakeholders play an important role in advancing a globally beneficial environmental agenda." Sreekumar Nair, CEO of Indiaspora-India, added that "Indiaspora's Climate Forum builds upon our work over the past 3 years in organizing virtual global Climate Summits. Given the caliber of expertise on stage at our Forum, it promises to be an insightful and impactful dialogue. We are excited to hear from an eclectic group of speakers including policymakers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, academics and nonprofit executives."

Pakistani woman cross over to India to marry with Indian guy



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar Pakistani woman Jawaria Khanam, hailing from Karachi province of Pakistan today crossed over to India through the Attari-Wagah Border. On reaching India, Jawaria Khanam was received by her fiancé, Sameer Khan and his family members. They welcomed her with Dhol with the beat of the drum. Talking to the media, Jawaria Khanam said in the beginning of new year (first week of January of 2024) to tie the knot with Sameer Khan a man from West Bengal. Adding further she said that she along with the family of boy going to Kolkata by air where the marriage will be solemnized. "I am enormously happy as it took five years to take our love to the marriage destination with the consent of both families". Currently, Khan's family relative is staying in a village in Gurdaspur district of Punjab. The couple's marriage will be solemnized as per Islamic rituals. Khanam said that initially, the Indian government denied granting a visa to the Pakistani national but finally they agreed to grant the visa and thanked the Indian Government. The couple is planning to extend the visa soon after the completion of the marriage ceremony, she said.



Two crore tourists visited Jammu & Kashmir until November

FW DESK Srinagar

For the first time after independence, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the arrival of two crore tourists up to November this year, Union Tourism Minister G Kishen Reddy said Thursday in parliament.

Replying to a query in the Parliament, Reddy said that for the first time after India's independence, Jammu and Kashmir has seen two crore tourist arrivals including foreigners up to November this year. "The figure is set to go up further by December end," he said. He said that there has been 155 percent increase in the overall tourist arrivals in 2023 compared to 2021 and 2022. "85 lakh foreign tourists visited India this year so far," he said. The Union Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a huge role



in showcasing India's tourism potential and tourism industry.

"PM Modi has been the brand ambassador of India's tourism industry. In his (PM's) every foreign visit, Modi showcased India's huge tourism potential that attracted lakhs of tourists to India," he said. On Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, told the Parliament that J&K will surpass 2 crore tourist arrivals this year and the previous record set by BJP will be broken by none other than BJP itself.



Ambassadors and representatives of Fiji, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan during the 17th edition of the Punjab International Trade Expo (PITEX), in Amritsar on Friday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

Anupam Kher's 'The Freelancer' look is Kirron Kher's favourite



MUMBAI: Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who is gearing up for the second season of his streaming show 'The Freelancer', has spoken about his look in the series saying that his wife Kirron Kher loved his look from the series and that it's her favourite look of the actor from this year.

The senior actor essays the role of Dr. Arif Ajmaal Khan in the series headlined by actor Mohit Raina, who plays the titular role.

Elaborating on his look in the series, Anupam said, "My look in 'The Freelancer' is my wife's favourite. I did a lot of work in 2023 but my wife didn't compliment me at all for anything this year."

"She asked me if Neeraj Pandey's number is the same because she messaged him for 'The Freelancer'. I told her to call him, so 2023 was great for me as far as Kirron ji is concerned." 'The Freelancer' series is based on the book 'A Ticket to Syria' by Shirish Thorat, which also stars Anupam Kher, Kashmiri Pardeshi, Sushant Singh, John Kokken, Gauri Balaji, Navneet Malik, Manjiri Faddnis, and Sarah Jane Dias, among others.

Created by showrunner Neeraj Pandey with Bhav Dhulia as the director, 'The Freelancer: The Conclusion' will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from December 15.

Dinesh Phadnis, 'Fredericks' of 'CID', passes away at 57



MUMBAI: Actor Dinesh Phadnis, who played the role of 'Fredericks' in the India's longest running television show 'CID', passed away in Mumbai. The actor was 57 years old, and was on ventilator support.

He was suffering from extensive liver damage, and was hospitalised on December 1. As per media reports, the 57-year-old actor was admitted to Mumbai's Tunga Hospital. Earlier, there were reports that the actor had suffered a heart attack which actor Dayanand Shetty had dismissed.

Shetty, who shared screen space with Phadnis in 'CID', had been sharing updates

about the actor's health and confirmed that the actor passed away at midnight.

All the actors from 'CID', who are known to be very close to each other, are at residence of Phadnis. His last rites will be conducted today at the Daulat Nagar crematorium.

'CID' started airing on television in 1998 and had a glorious run till 2018. It is one of the longest-running shows on Indian television. Dinesh played the role of Fredericks on the show and his character was loved by the audience for his comic timing and fun banter with other characters on the show, especially Shivaji Satam's ACP Pradyuman.



Deepika Padukone attends Academy Museum Gala in LOS ANGELES

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone is in attendance at the Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles. She is the first Indian star to be invited to the prestigious event.

The Academy Museum Gala is the second biggest stage after the Oscars which is organised by the same board.

Earlier this year Deepika was seen on the stage at the Oscars to present the Indian song act.

Deepika took to Instagram Stories, where she shared a string of pictures dressed in a dark purple velvet floor-sweeping gown with a plunging neckline. She completed her look for the event with some sparkly diamonds.

On the work front, Deepika had a fabulous year with 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'. She will next be seen in 'Fighter' alongside Hrithik Roshan and Anil Kapoor.

Deepika also has 'Kalki 2898 AD' with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan.



Vicky Kaushal: 'Katrina is perfect candidate for reverse psychology'

MUMBAI: Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal, who is receiving a positive response to his recently released film 'Sam Bahadur', graced the latest episode of the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan' with his 'Lust Stories' co-star Kiara Advani. During the episode, Vicky revealed that his wife, actress Katrina Kaif is "the perfect candidate for reverse psychology".

During the 'Koffee Shots' round, the show host Karan Johar, asked the guests if they have cracked the code to get their spouses to do what they want.

While Kiara didn't have an answer to this, Vicky spilled the beans about how consensus is reached in the Kaushal house.

Talking about the same, Vicky said, "Katrina is a perfect candidate for reverse psychology. If I want her to agree on something, I have to wholeheartedly, with abundance agree to what she wants. And then she turns around and says, 'BTW I see the point in what you're saying', and then she comes around".

Vicky also shared his experience of working with Bol-

lywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan. Vicky said, "I'll share an incident, one of the shoot dates, he had to rush to Delhi for some very important work and it couldn't have happened at another time or another day and it was a very critical kind of a moment in the film for my character which was with him and he just couldn't be there for that shot and I had to give that shot with a body double and he had to rush".

The 'Uri' actor continued, "After he got done with his work which was like insanely important in Delhi, late in the night, he had called which I missed because there was an event and then he messaged me. A long message saying, 'Vicky, wo shot hum dobara karenge. I am really sorry I missed that, I couldn't be there to give just the cues, I couldn't be there, We'll do that shot again'. I had to call him and convince him ki nahi Raju sir is happy and it went okay and there is no need and pata nahi mujhe waapis hoga ki bhi nahi but I was nervous, But he was like, no, we will do it again, I am feeling terrible that I couldn't be there".

Kay Kay Menon wishes 'The Railway Men' could qualify as India's entry to Oscars

MUMBAI: Acclaimed actor Kay Kay Menon wishes his series 'The Railway Men' was eligible to be sent as India's entry to the Oscars. He feels the series would have done India proud at this prestigious global stage.

Kay Kay said: "I wish 'The Railway Men' was eligible to be qualified as India's entry to the Oscars. This series shows the world what we, as a country, faced on that fateful night and also shows the spirit of selfless Indians who put their lives at risk to save countless



people from dying." The 4-part mini series is set during the 1984

Bhopal gas tragedy that rocked the country. It has been directed by debutant director Shiv Rawail.

Kay Kay added: "This series truly deserves to represent India at every global stage and tell people worldwide about our resilience and character in insurmountable danger and grief. The Railway Men is a show that every Indian should be proud of."

Known for delivering acclaimed performances throughout his stellar career, Kay Kay feels 'The Railway Men' is one

of his best works to date.

He said: "It rests in my filmography as one of the best projects that I have ever been a part of. I'm thrilled with the response that the series has received globally already. It deserves all the love. It is our tribute to the undying human spirit, a tribute to Bhopal and its resilience and it is also a tribute to all the unsung heroes of Bhopal whose sacrifice saved hundreds of thousands of people unaware of how to fight the silent killer in the air."

Bollywood comedian 'Jr Mehmood' succumbs to cancer at 67



MUMBAI: Veteran Bollywood comedian, singer, director and character actor Naem Sayyed - popularly known as 'Junior Mehmood' - passed away after a protracted battle with cancer, here on Friday morning.

Jr Mehmood had been admitted to the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for treatment of stomach cancer and was on the path of recovery at home.

His condition suddenly deteriorated and he was put on ventilator support but failed to make it through early today. Initially taken to hospital for a minor tummy ailment, it was

later diagnosed as stomach cancer in the final stages as it had spread to the liver, lungs, with a tumour in the intestine and complicated by a bout of jaundice. The funeral of Jr Mehmood shall be performed this afternoon at the Juhu Muslim Cemetery, which a large number of Bollywood personalities are likely to attend.

Starting his film career as a child actor in 'Mohabbat Zindagi Hai' (1966), Jr Mehmood went onto work in over 250 films in multiple Indian languages, besides directing half a dozen Marathi films and

crooning a few songs. He enacted big and small roles with films like 'Naunihal' (1967), 'Brahmachari' (1968), 'Kati Patang' and 'Aan Milo Sajana' (1970), 'Caravan', 'Haathi Mere Saathi', 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' and 'Jr. Mehmood in Hong Kong' (all 1971), 'Aap Ki Kasam' and 'Amir Garib' (1974), 'Geet Gaata Chal' (1975), 'Shehzade' (1989), 'Aaj Ka Arjun' (1990), 'Judaai' (1997), 'Journey Bombay to Goa' (2007), and many more.

Jr Mehmood was also seen in character roles in tele-series like 'Pyaar Ka Dard Hai, Meetha Meetha Pyaara', 'Ek Rishta Sahjedari Ka' and 'Tenaali Rama' among others.

Incidentally, Sayyed considered the legendary comedian Mehmood Ali as his 'guru' who bestowed on him the title of 'Jr Mehmood'.

During his spell of hospitalisation, scores of Bollywood personalities had called on Jr Mehmood in hospital and expressed concerns over his deteriorating health.



Charles Darwin University Australia visited the Farm of Pingalwara at Dheerokot near Jandiala Guru, in Amritsar on Wednesday.



PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL