

MARKET DASHBOARD

<p>SENSEX 77,496.36 ▲ 609.45 (0.79%)</p> <p>NIFTY 24,177.65 ▲ 181.96 (0.76%)</p>	<p>GAINERS & LOSERS</p>	<p>TOP GAINERS/BSE</p> <p>ITC 316.25, 11.80</p> <p>Tech Mahindra 1,460, 51.70</p> <p>Maruti Suzuki 13,257, 365.00</p> <p>RIL 1,425, 36.50</p> <p>Bharti Airtel 1,888, 44.30</p>	<p>TOP LOSERS/BSE</p> <p>InterGlobe 4,345, -97.20</p> <p>NTPC 401.30, -5.56</p> <p>ICICI Bank 1,281, -11.00</p> <p>Bajaj Finserv 1,764, -14.80</p> <p>Asian Paints 2,447, -15.30</p>	<p>TOP GAINERS/NSE</p> <p>Sapphire Foods 207.42, 33.10</p> <p>Devyani Int 127.59, 15.40</p> <p>Bandhan Bank 198.30, 19.70</p> <p>Emcure Pharmaceutica 1,730, 122.00</p> <p>Godfrey Philips 2,275, 159.00</p>	<p>TOP LOSERS/NSE</p> <p>Suven Pharma 467.55, -25.75</p> <p>NTPC Green Energy 110.53, -5.29</p> <p>Jindal Saw 229.80, -10.48</p> <p>Trans & Rectif 323.50, -14.31</p> <p>JSW Infrastructure 273.14, -11.81</p>	<p>COMMODITIES</p> <p>GOLD (MCDX 10 GRM) 13,8290.85 ▼ (-143.64)</p> <p>SILVER (MCDX 1 KG) 218,444.99 ▼ (-4802.39)</p> <hr/> <p>USD (\$) / INR(₹) 94.850 ▲ (+0.310)</p>
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Rupee falls 20 paise to close at fresh all-time low of 94.88 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 20 paise to close at its all-time low of 94.88 against the US dollar on Wednesday, pressured by rising Brent crude oil prices, hovering around USD 115 per barrel, and continued foreign capital outflows.

Forex traders said the elevated crude oil price is likely to sharply impact India's import costs, while the ongoing West Asia crisis and concerns over potential wider conflict are fuelling investor anxiety.

Also, analysts said that investors were awaiting cues from the upcoming US Federal Reserve policy decision.

Moreover, heavy foreign institutional investor (FII) selling so far this year further dented investor sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.79 against the US dollar, then lost ground and declined to 94.88 against the US dollar during the session. It finally settled for the day down 20 paise at 94.88, the lowest-ever closing level.

On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated by 53 paise to close at 94.68 against the US dollar.

The rupee's previous



all-time low closing level of 94.85 versus the US dollar was recorded on March 27 this year. The unit touched its lowest-ever intraday level of 95.22 against the greenback on March 30.

Dilip Parmar - Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said, "The Indian rupee hit a record low close as rising crude oil prices and a surging US dollar weighed on the currency. Also, the domestic liquidity remained tight as importer demand outpaced supply, while the central bank stayed on the sidelines. We see USD-INR trading between 94.10 to 95.15 with positive bias."

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, sustained FII outflows and elevated crude prices

near USD 114 (Brent) kept pressure on the domestic currency.

"The trend remains weak, with the currency consistently facing selling pressure on rebounds, indicating a lack of strong support at higher levels. In the near term, 94.40 is likely to act as resistance, while 95.25 remains the next key support, with the rupee expected to stay volatile and driven by crude and capital flows," Trivedi said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.08 per cent at 98.72.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 3.13 per cent at USD 114.74 per barrel in futures trade.

Products made by prisoners in HP to be sold on Flipkart



SHIMLA: Products such as handicrafts, hand-made clothing, furniture, and other items made by prisoners in Himachal Pradesh will be sold on Flipkart's online platform under an MoU signed by the state prison department and the online retailer, a release said on Wednesday.

The Himkara Unnayan Samiti, under the Himachal Pradesh Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Flipkart in this regard, it said. Support will also be provided for packaging, branding, and logistics, so that the products meet market standards and remain competitive. The MoU is a major step towards the rehabilitation, skill development, and financial empowerment of prisoners.

The income earned from these online sales will go directly to the prisoners, helping improve their financial situation and quality of life. This initiative will also support their reintegration into society after release, said Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Himachal Pradesh, Abhishek Trivedi. Prisoners will also be given training in line with current market needs, so they can develop new skills and find better self-employment opportunities after their release. Himachal Pradesh's jails currently house around 3,000 inmates, of whom 1,000 are convicted prisoners and 2,000 are undertrials.

Asia, Europe could see jet fuel shortages in coming months: IATA chief Willie Walsh

NEW DELHI: Global airlines' grouping IATA's chief, Willie Walsh, on Wednesday said there could be shortages of jet fuel in Asia and Europe in the coming months, and that the extraordinarily high fuel costs are increasingly being reflected in ticket prices.

Prices of jet fuel, which accounts for a substantial chunk of an airline's operational costs, have surged due to the supply disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties in the wake of the West Asia conflict.

"Everybody's watching what's happening with jet fuel -- both supply and pricing. On the supply side, over the next few months, we could see shortages in parts of the world with high dependence on supplies from the Gulf, especially Asia and Europe," Walsh, the IATA Director General, said in a statement.

Walsh is set to take over as the CEO of India's largest carrier IndiGo in August.

The International Air Transport Association is a grouping of more than 360 airlines, including IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express and SpiceJet.

According to Walsh, the extraordinarily high cost



of jet fuel is increasingly being reflected in ticket prices.

"While this has not impacted March traffic or forward bookings to date, it remains to be seen at what point high prices could start to shift passenger behaviour. So far, the summer is shaping up to be a normally busy time for travel. That's positive news, but airline resilience is being tested and stabilising the supply and price of fuel is crucial," he said.

Walsh also said that it was important for regulators to be prepared to grant airlines some flexibility on slots considering the extraordinary circumstances of airspace capacity restrictions and potential fuel rationing.

His comments were

part of IATA's passenger traffic report for March.

On April 26, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, told the government that the country's airline industry is under extreme stress and on the verge of "stopping operations", as they sought revision in ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel) pricing and financial support.

Meanwhile, IATA's report said that in March, total demand, measured in Revenue Passenger Kilometers (RPK) rose 2.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period.

"Total capacity, measured in Available Seat Kilometres (ASK), decreased 1.7 per cent year-on-year. The load factor was 83.6

ACROSS THE GLOBE

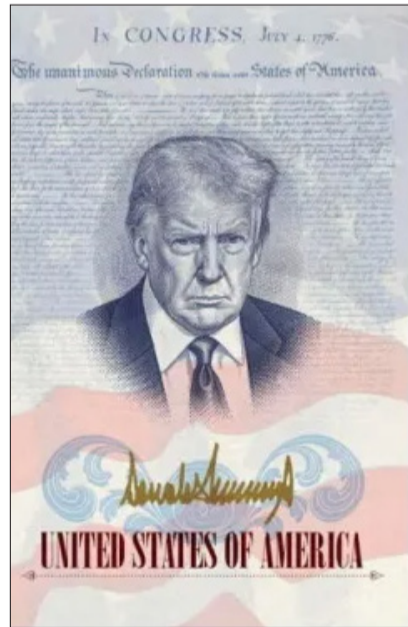
Prez Donald Trump to feature on limited edition US passports

WASHINGTON: The State Department is all set to unveil a limited-edition US passport with pictures of President Donald Trump and the Founding Fathers to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence in July.

The special passports will be available only to those who show up in person at the Washington Passport Agency and not anywhere else across the country.

The Department of State shared images of the limited edition passports on its social media accounts.

One page of the passport carries Trump's image surrounded by the text of the Declaration of Independence and the American flag along with the president's signature in gold.



Another page features the famous painting of the founding fathers at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The passports, which are set to be released this

summer, are part of the Trump administration's broader "America250" celebration, which also in-

cludes a Grand Prix race on the National Mall in August and a UFC fight on the White House South Lawn in June.

"As the United States celebrates America's 250th anniversary in July, @StateDept is preparing to release a limited number of specially designed US Passports to commemorate this historic occasion," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a post on X.

that make the US Passport the most secure documents in the world," Pigott said in a statement.

In October, the Department of Treasury proposed minting a one dollar coin featuring Trump's image on it, to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence. According to draft images confirmed as real by US Treasurer Brandon Beach, one side of the coin would feature Trump's profile, along with the words "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "1776-2026." The other side of the coin would feature Trump standing with a clenched right fist in front of an American flag and the words "FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT" — a reference to his chant after the 2024 assassination attempt at his campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

A State Department official told Fox News Digital that the new designs will be available for "any American citizen" who applies for a passport when the rollout happens and will continue for as long as there is availability. "These passports will feature customised artwork and enhanced imagery while maintaining the same security features

PM Starmer condemns antisemitic stabbing of 2 men near synagogue

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday led condemnations of an antisemitic attack in north-west London, which involved two men being stabbed after a knife-wielding man was seen running down a street near a synagogue.

The Metropolitan Police said Counter-Terror officers are leading an investigation after a 45-year-old male suspect was Tasered and arrested.

Jewish volunteer patrol group Shomrim said the man was seen running along Golders Green Road armed with a knife, attempting to stab Jewish members of the public.

Two male victims were stabbed and are stable as they were treated by non-profit emergency medical service Hatzola, the Hebrew word for rescue. "The antisemitic attack in Golders Green is utterly appalling," said Starmer.

"Attacks on our Jewish community are attacks on Britain. Thank you to Shomrim, Hatzola and the police for acting swiftly. Those responsible will be brought to justice," he said.

The Met Police said the suspect also attempted to stab police officers before being arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

"Two men — one in his 70s and one in his 30s — were treated at the scene for stab wounds. They have been taken to the hospital, and both are in a stable condition," the Met Police said.

"Specialist officers from Counter Terrorism Policing are leading the investigation and working with the Metropolitan Police to establish the full circumstances and any links to terrorism," it stated. Earlier, Starmer told the House of Commons the attack was "deeply concerning" and that such offences have been taking place "too much recently".

Several arrests in sex offences probe involving Ahmadi sect in UK

LONDON: Several arrests have been made as part of an investigation into serious offences alleged to have involved members of an Ahmadi sect in north-west England, UK police said on Wednesday.

Cheshire Constabulary said it was made aware last month of allegations of serious sexual offences, forced marriage and modern slavery involving members of a religious group called the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light in Crewe.

It said the offences involved a woman who was a member of the group at the time the offences were reported to have taken place in 2023.

Following a detailed

investigation into the allegations, officers have today, Wednesday 29 April, conducted three warrants in Crewe, including Webb House, leading to the arrest of several people," Cheshire Constabulary stated.

More than 500 officers from the Cheshire force and neighbouring police forces were involved in the morning raids, with detectives continuing to conduct a search of the premises after the arrests.

"Today's operation is the outcome of a detailed and robust investigation into reports of serious sexual offences, forced marriage and modern slavery involving members of a religious group called Ahmadi Reli-

gion of Peace and Light in Crewe," said Chief Superintendent Gareth Wrigley of Cheshire Constabulary.

"While those arrested are members of the group, I want to make clear that this is not an investigation into the religion, this is an investigation into the serious allegations which have been reported to us.

"We treat all reports of sexual assault seriously and are committed to doing all we can to achieve justice," he said.

The police chief said officers are working closely with partners to provide appropriate advice and safeguarding support to other members of the group following the arrests.

Pakistan's Punjab sets 18 years as minimum legal marriage age for girls

LAHORE: Pakistan's Punjab government has changed the 97-year-old law by setting 18 years as the minimum legal age for marriage for girls and declaring underage marriage a non-bailable offence.

Previously, the minimum legal age for marriage in Punjab, a province of 130 million people, was 16 years for girls under the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

The Maryam Nawaz government of Punjab introduced the "Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2026" in the Punjab Assembly, which was adopted this week.

According to the new law, marriage below the age of 18 for both males



and females is a non-bailable and cognisable offence. Adults marrying a female child (under 18) will face up to three years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of up to PKR 500,000.

"Parents or guardians who facilitate, pro-

mote, or fail to prevent child marriage face up to three years of rigorous imprisonment and fines up to PKR 500,000. Nikah Registrars (Marriage registrars) who facilitate or register such marriages face up to one year in prison and a fine of

PKR100,000," according to the law.

The law further says cohabitation resulting from child marriage is classified as child abuse, carrying up to years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of PKR 1 million.

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Wednesday that this landmark legislation will enable millions of girls to pursue higher education, develop confidence and skills and build stronger, more secure foundations for their future families.

She criticised practices of using girls to settle disputes and questioned whether women should continue to bear the burden of societal injustices.

Referring to concerns of some clerics and lawmakers over the legislation, Bokhari asked those opposing it, "Will they marry off their daughters at the age of 9 or 11?" "The answer is a definitive no. But they are pretty fine seeing the underage girls of others married," she lambasted.

Bokhari further said many girls are married off without understanding the consequences. "Many girls died of childbirth complications because of getting married under 16 years of age," the minister said and criticised the practices where girls are used to settle disputes and questioned whether women should continue to bear the burden of societal injustices.