

NATION
ED summons Kejriwal for sixth time **page 5**

NATION
Maratha quota: Jarange's health deteriorates **page 6**

WORLD
Will capture Hamas leader dead or alive, says IDF **page 7**



Harish dares CM to quit

HYDERABAD | PAGE 04

Shehbaz likely to become next PM

WORLD | PAGE 07



India to take on England today

SPORT | PAGE 08



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 10

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BRS walks out over CM's 'abusive remarks'

Says party denied opportunity to respond; even Media point inaccessible

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The State Legislative Assembly on Wednesday witnessed an uproar after the main opposition, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), was denied an opportunity to counter a deliberate and intense attack launched by the treasury benches against the party and its president, Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekhara Rao.

With its members prevented from countering the verbal attack on the floor of the House, as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy led the attack with what the BRS called unparliamentary and intemperate language, BRS members staged a walkout from the Assembly.

The commotion began when Revanth Reddy repeatedly used derogatory language to speak about Chandrashekhara Rao, forcing the BRS members to walk into the well of the house to lodge their protest with the Speaker. Repeated attempts made by them to



BRS MLAs, including KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao, staging a protest on the Assembly premises in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

beat back the offensive of the Congress were thwarted. The BRS MLAs then walked out and sought to give a rebuttal at least by speaking to the press at the Assembly Media Point. However, in a first in the recent history of the Telangana Assembly, the MLAs

were denied even access to the Media Point by the marshals who said members were now prohibited from speaking at the Media Point when the session was in progress. The BRS members sought to know from the Chief Marshal whether there was any such rule pre-

venting members from speaking to the media. He assured to get back to them after talking to the Speaker. But as he did not turn up, the BRS members staged a protest near the BRS office. Senior MLA Kadiyam Srihari, who was scheduled to speak on the Vote-on-Ac-

count Budget in the day, had to move out of the house with his mission left incomplete due to the continued attack from the treasury benches, after which he also joined party leaders KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao in the protest.

Earlier, intervening in the discussion on the Budget, Revanth Reddy made certain remarks against the Leader of the Opposition. His attempt was to contest Rao's criticism at Tuesday's public meeting at Nalgonda in disapproval of the Medigadda visit organised by the government by setting aside the business during the crucial Budget session. BRS members took strong exception to his comments and sought an opportunity to give a rebuttal.

Srihari said it was unbecoming on the part of the leader of the House to speak in such a manner. The tone and tenor he spoke with as the TPCC president would not go well as the Chief Minister of the State, he stressed. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Centre, farmer talks today amid face-off



Police use tear gas to disperse the agitating farmers for the second consecutive day at Shambhu border, near Patiala. — Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI

Three Union Ministers will meet farmer leaders in Chandigarh on Thursday for another round of talks as the standoff between the protesters and police at the Punjab-Haryana border entered its second day, marked by more clashes between the two sides.

At Shambhu border point near Ambala on Wednesday, there was intermittent shelling by security personnel at the 'Delhi Chalo' protesters who are demanding minimum support price for their crops. Tear smoke was used whenever any group of farmers moved towards the barricades. Security personnel faced stone-pelting from the protesters.

A similar standoff continued at the at Data Singh-wala-Khanauri border in Haryana's Jind district. But the situation remained less volatile compared to Tuesday, when farmers tried to shift cement barriers at Shambhu with their tractors, attempting to push towards Delhi. Farmer leaders claimed that over 100 protesters were hurt Tuesday,

It will be the third round of meeting between the farmer leaders and the Centre over their demands

hit by rubber bullets and tear gas shells. Police said 24 of their own men were injured in the stone-pelting by protesters during the first day of the protest.

Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said the meeting will with ministers Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal and Nityanand Rai will take place at 5 pm Thursday. It will be the third round of meetings between the farmer leaders and the Centre in Chandigarh after farm organisations announced their plan to march to Delhi. The two earlier meetings, held before the march began, remained inconclusive. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading 'Delhi Chalo' protest. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

Abu Dhabi gets first Hindu temple

ABU DHABI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple, describing it as a symbol of the shared heritage of humanity and thanking the UAE for scripting a new golden chapter of human history.

Speaking at the inauguration of the temple built by the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), the Prime Minister profusely thanked the President of UAE Sheikh Mohammed Zayed Al Nahyan for making the grand temple in Abu Dhabi a reality and said he has not only won the hearts of Indians living in the Gulf nation but also of 140 crore Indians.

"I hope that the BAPS Mandir will become a symbol of communal harmony and global unity for the whole world," Modi said, addressing a gathering that included UAE Tolerance Minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and spiritual leaders from all



The first stone-built Hindu temple which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday. — Photo: AFP

faiths. "We do not see hatred in diversity, we consider diversity as our specialty! In this temple, we will see a glimpse of diverse faiths at each and every step," Modi said.

Later, addressing the World Governments Summit on the second day of his

visit to the UAE, Modi said that the government should interfere as little as possible in the lives of people. "I believe that people should neither feel the absence of a government, but at the same time, nor should there be pressure from the government," he told the gathering

that has seen the participation of 10 Presidents and 10 Prime Ministers from across the globe. Modi also urged the gathering that given the interconnected nature of the world, governments must collaborate and learn from each other to address future challenges. PTI

Medico ragged, action sought

STATE BUREAU
 Peddapalli

A first-year MBBS student was allegedly ragged by his seniors at the Ramagundam Medical College. Four senior students allegedly trimmed his hair and moustache with a trimmer in the boys' hostel on Monday night.

The student told his parents about the incident on Tuesday morning and lodged a complaint with the college management. Juniors, who staged a protest at the vice principal's office, lodged a complaint with principal Dr Hima Bindu Singh. First-year students al-

leged that though they were giving respect to seniors and calling them 'Sir' or 'Madam', the seniors were harassing them.

Police visited the college and inquired about the incident. Reacting to the incident, the college management sent four students home directing them to appear along with their parents. The Principal, in a statement released to the media on Wednesday, informed that on receiving a few complaints from first-year medical students, they sent four students home with directions to appear with their parents. (SEE PAGE 2)

Continuing the sweet tradition for 80 years

ASIF YAR KHAN
 Hyderabad

Tucked away in the corner of the street near Hanuman temple at Begum Bazaar, an unassuming push cart with the name 'Kamala Bai Sweets' rolls into its regular spot at exactly 7 pm.

By the time the cart is parked neatly, already there is a small group of customers waiting for the business to start. Anand, however, is not perturbed by the eager customers. For the past 80 years, his family has been setting up the bandi at the same spot and he is well aware that his loyal customers will wait. "Only five varieties of sweets — Ajmeri Kalak-



Kamala Bai Sweets sells only five varieties that are sold between 7 pm and 11 pm every day. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

hand, Rabdi, Gajar ka Halwa, Doodh Peda and Doodh Kalakhand — are sold between 7 pm and 11 pm every day," says Anand, who took over the

business from his mother Kamala Bai. The flavour-some menu was introduced by Kamala Bai, who used to prepare the sweets at her house in Aghapura

and transport it in the evenings where it was sold till late in the night. After her death, Anand took over the business.

"Not just locals but people from far-off places, including Karnataka and Maharashtra, who are in the city visit the bandi," he says.

Old-timers recall Kamala Bai coming in the evening along with his son at the very spot where the family continues with the business. "I have been a regular customer for the last three decades and so far there were no complaints about the standard and taste," said Vinod Kumar, a resident of Jambagh. "People place orders with us for functions as well," said Anand.

Mylan's licence for Alprazolam cancelled

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The TS Drugs Control Administration cancelled the product manufacturing licence of Mylan Laboratories, Unit-7 at Pashamylaram, for the drug Alprazolam. The DCA said that it has issued a show cause notice to Mylan Laboratories after inspecting its facility as the firm failed to notify it regarding the unauthorised diversion of Alprazolam. The notice was also served because of a lack of adequate controls for the prevention and detection of unauthorised diversion of alprazolam. (SEE PAGE 2)