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**War of words breaks out over Article 370 abrogation**



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**Iran may attack Israel in 48 hours, say reports**  
 Tel Aviv mulls preemptive strike on Tehran following full-proof intelligence report



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**Olympics: Lakshya Sen loses bronze play-off to Lee**

**In a nutshell**  
**TMC, BJP oppose division of WB**  
**KOLKATA:** In a rare show of bonhomie between the ruling TMC and the opposition BJP, the West Bengal Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution opposing any attempt to divide the State. The BJP, which has been accused of fuelling demands for the division of West Bengal, maintained that it is opposed to the idea of bifurcation of the State, and rather wants its development. "We are opposed to any attempt to divide the State," CM Mamata Banerjee said.  
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**Drug worth Rs 30 crore seized**  
**BHARUCH:** The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Bharuch police raided a unit in Dahej industrial area and seized raw material worth Rs 30 crore which was being processed to manufacture mephedrone, a banned synthetic stimulant drug, an official said on Monday. The raid was carried out following a specific tip-off, the official said. "The joint team has recovered raw material worth Rs 30 crore from the spot. The material was being used for manufacturing MD drugs." PTI

**Bear mauls man to death in J&K**  
**BANIHAL/JAMMU:** A 48-year-old man was killed and a teenager injured in a bear attack in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said on Monday. The incident took place when the pair were grazing their cattle in the Aurotoop area of Ukhral Pogal Paristan subdivision late on Sunday. Nazir Ahmed Malik died on the spot while 15-year-old Reyaz Ahmed Gorsy was admitted to a hospital, they said. Reyaz is undergoing treatment and his condition is stable. PTI

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 80
Retail live.....	Rs. 102
With skin.....	Rs. 148
Skinless.....	Rs. 168
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 56

## Hasina flees amid turmoil; army takes over B'desh

**Embattled leader lands in India; interim government to take charge soon**



Protesters celebrate after Sheikh Hasina's resignation as Prime Minister in Dhaka on Monday. — Photo: AP

**PTI**  
**DHAKA**  
 With Bangladesh descending into chaos, embattled leader Sheikh Hasina surreptitiously fled the country in a military aircraft and landed in India on Monday while the army stepped in to fill the power vacuum, ending one uncertain chapter and opening another in the nation's restive history. As the news of Hasina's departure spread, hundreds broke into her residence, vandalising and looting the interiors, providing dramatic expression to the anti-government protests that have killed more than 100 people in the last two days. At the centre of people's anger is the Hasina government's controversial quota system reserving 30 per cent jobs for families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war. With volatile crowds taking to the streets — some clambering on

**BSF issues high alert along border**  
**KOLKATA:** The BSF issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country. BSF DG (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders toured the front in West Bengal to review the security situation. PTI



A policeman aims his weapon at protesters during a curfew in Dhaka on Monday. — Photo: AP

**Ex-PM Khaleda Zia to be released**  
**DHAKA:** Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin at a meeting with the chiefs of the three armed forces, leaders of various political parties, and civil society representatives, on Monday decided to release Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia immediately. IANS

Hasina's father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue and smashing it with hammers in a lasting image un-

**Modi takes stock of situation**  
**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security as the government's top brass was briefed about the situation in Bangladesh. Modi was joined by other members of the CCS, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. PTI

der scoring the fickleness of history — Army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that the 76-year-old Prime Minister has resigned. An interim government will be taking over, he said in a televised address amid feverish speculation about where Hasina was

headed. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," Zaman added, signalling the end of Hasina's 15-year power run. The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order. However, there were no leaders from Hasina's Awami League at the meeting. As protests spiralled across the country, the army chief said he had asked both Army and police not to fire any shots. Zaman He vowed "justice" for all the people. After hours of uncertainty, Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad near New Delhi as part of her plan to go to London, diplomatic sources in the Indian capital said. After Hasina arrived in a C-130J military transport aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met her, the sources said. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORT PAGE 9)

## Students live in fear of food poisoning

**Series of incidents rock govt schools across State**

**S SANDEEP KUMAR**  
 Hyderabad

Every time they sit for a meal in their hostel canteens, students of government residential schools and colleges in Telangana are increasingly being forced to pray for their own safety. Such has been the frequency of worms and lizards being found in rice, curries and upma, apart from instances of rotten eggs and vegetables being used to make food for them. The situation is also seeing an increasing frequency of students, including girl students, coming out onto the streets protesting against sub-standard food being served to them. Right from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's own constituency of Kodangal to Mahabubabad, there have been seven such protests in four days since Friday. The protests were not all. At a few places, students had to be hospitalised too. On Saturday, students from Kasturba Gandhi Girls School at Nacharam in Kodangal hit the streets and staged a protest over the poor quality of food being served to them in the hostel. The students said wriggling worms were detected in the rice and curries many times. On the same day, 20 students of the Model School at Veldanda mandal in Nagarkurnool district were hospitalised after consuming poor-quality food in

### RECENT INCIDENTS

- AUG 5:** 10 students, two staff members of KGBV at Pentlavelli in Kollapur fall ill, complain of diarrhoea and vomiting
- AUG 4:** 22 students of the same institution hospitalised
- AUG 4:** 4 students of Government Social Welfare Residential School, Vikarabad, admitted to hospital with jaundice
- AUG 3:** Worms found in food served at Kasturba Gandhi Girls School at Nacharam, Kodangal
- AUG 2:** 20 students of Model School at Veldanda mandal in Nagarkurnool hospitalised
- AUG 2:** Students of Kothapalli Government School in Nizamabad served rice with just chilli powder, oil

their hostel. Students complained that half-cooked food was being served to them, and there were worms in the rice and curries for the last few days. On Sunday, about 22 students of KGBV at Pentlavelli in Kollapur were hospitalised due to food poisoning. After lunch, the girls complained of stomach ache and many began vomiting. Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao asked officials for an inquiry and report. On Monday, at the same institution, another 10 students and two staff members fell ill. Officials shifted the students to the Area Hospital, Kollapur. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

## Nine Kanwariyas electrocuted

**HAIJIPUR**

At least nine Kanwar Yatra pilgrims were electrocuted and two others sustained injuries when the vehicle they were travelling in came in contact with a high-tension overhead wire in Bihar's Vaishali district on Monday. The incident took place in Sultanpur village. Officials investigating the matter said action will be

taken if lapses are found on anyone's part. "Nine pilgrims died and two others sustained injuries when the top portion of their vehicle touched high-tension overhead wire in Sultanpur village under the jurisdiction of Industrial PS. They were going to Baba Harihar Nath Temple in Sonapur to perform Jalabhishek," Vaishali District Magistrate Yashpal Meena said. PTI

## Coaching centres turned death chambers, says SC

**NEW DELHI**

Coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students, the Supreme Court said on Monday as it issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi government on three IAS aspirants drowning in the basement of an institute here. Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said the incident was an eye-opener for all. On July 27, three civil services aspirants drowned in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle in the Old Rajinder Nagar area here after it was flooded following heavy rain. Seven people, including Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and coordinator

Deshpal Singh, have been arrested in the case. "This is horrible what we are reading. If need be, we will even close down these coaching centres. For the time being, the coaching should go online, unless there is meticulous compliance of building regulations and other safety norms. These places (coaching centres) have become death chambers. Coaching centres are playing with the lives of these aspirants who have come from different parts of the country with dreams and are working hard," the Bench said. "The recent unfortunate incident which took away lives of three young aspirants who joined the coaching centres for their career is an eye-opener for one and all," he said. PTI

## CRIME WATCH

### Head constable dies as tree branches pierce body

**HYDERABAD:** In a freak mishap, a head constable working with the Telangana Special Police first battalion died after falling from a building and getting fatally pierced by the branches of a tree at Devinagar colony, KPHB on Sunday night. The incident occurred when the head constable, David (59), went to attend a birthday party hosted by Shekhar, an Inspector working at Rachakonda police control room, at his house in Devinagar. "David, after having dinner, was going to the washroom when he slipped from the stairs of the building. David fell on a big tree, and the branches pierced his body. He was shifted to a hospital where he died," said ACP Kukatpally K Srinivas Rao. The police shifted the body for post-mortem examination to Gandhi Hospital. Around 30 policemen working in different places in the State had attended the birthday of the Inspector.

### Six policemen suspended for torturing woman

**HYDERABAD:** Six policemen, including the Detective Inspector of Shadnagar police station, who allegedly tortured a woman while conducting an inquiry into a theft case at Shadnagar police station, were placed under suspension by the Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty. The victim, Sujatha, had alleged that Detective Inspector Rami Reddy along with a few policemen and a woman constable had allegedly subjected her to third degree, forcing her to confess to a theft that was reported in her neighbourhood. Sujatha alleged that she was taken to the police station on July 24 and beaten up in front of her minor son with sticks and rubber belts. The woman was later released after she fell ill due to the brutal torture. Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty ordered an inquiry on Sunday after the incident came to light. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

## Stock markets crash nearly 3%

**MUMBAI**

Stock markets crashed nearly 3 per cent on Monday due to across-the-board selling in banking, IT, metal and oil & gas shares following a global equity rout, wiping out more than Rs 15 lakh crore of investor money in a single day. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, the index tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86. The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points to settle at more than a month's low of 24,055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33% to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed over 5% due to poll results. (REPORT PAGE 8)

## US firm to invest \$5 million in WE Hub, Cognizant to expand



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu along with the representatives of Walsh Karra Holdings in New York.

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Walsh Karra Holdings (WKH), a US-based investment firm, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Telangana's WE Hub for an investment of \$5 million over the next

five years. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's US tour also succeeded in getting Cognizant, a global leader in IT services and consulting, to announce significant expansion plans in Hyderabad by creating a new facility with over 10 lakh sqft space, with the move to create over

15,000 new jobs in the city. As for the WKH investment, Phani Karra and Greg Walsh of WKH and Sita Pallacholla, CEO of the WE-Hub signed the MoU in New York in the presence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu. (SEE PAGE 2)