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Numaish gearing up to enliven city



WORLD | PAGE 09

Syrian insurgents reach Damascus' suburbs

Rumours fly thick and fast of President Assad fleeing country; govt says he is in the capital



SPORT | PAGE 10

India stares at defeat; Travis hits century

In a nutshell

Mild tremors in Mahabubnagar
MAHABUBNAGAR: Mild tremors were felt in Dasarapalle under Koukuntla mandal in the district on Saturday afternoon. Residents felt the tremors around 12.15 pm. NGRI officials said the impact on the Richter Scale was 3. According to reports, the tremors were felt in the Krishna river catchment area, including upstream and downstream of the Jurala project. This is the second such incident in the week in the State.

S Korean President impeachment fails

SEOUL: A South Korean legislative push to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his short-lived imposition of martial law fell through after most lawmakers from his conservative governing party boycotted the vote. The defeat of the motion is expected to intensify protests calling for Yoon's ouster and deepen political chaos, with a survey suggesting a majority South Koreans support the motion. **WORLD PAGE 9**

Bizman shot dead in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A businessman out on a morning walk was shot dead by two unidentified assailants in east Delhi's Shahdara on Saturday, one of three killings reported in various parts of the national capital in just 12 hours. Sunil Jain (52), who dealt in utensils, was shot repeatedly by motorcycle-borne assailants in Farsh Bazar. Jain was rushed to a hospital, where he succumbed to injuries, police said. **NATION PAGE 8**

Indian priest made Cardinal

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: In a grand consistory held in the Vatican on Saturday, 51-year-old Indian priest George Jacob Koovakad was elevated to the rank of cardinal by Pope Francis. Hailing from the Archdiocese of Changanassery in Kerala, Koovakad's appointment brings the total number of Indian cardinals to six, further strengthening the country's representation in the Vatican. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85

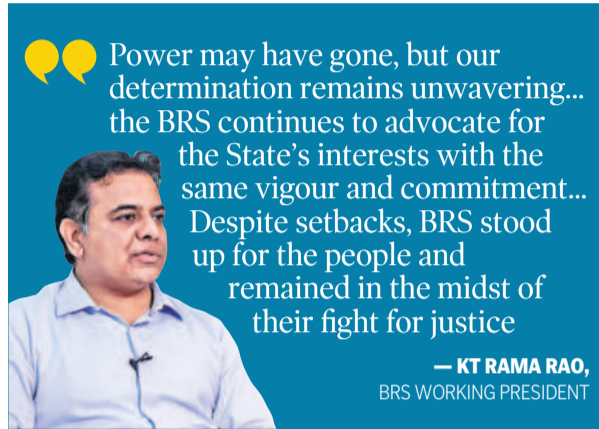
'BRS a beacon of hope for people'

As party enters 25th year, KTR reflects on its journey; says it stood by people despite setbacks

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Highlighting the eventful history of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) since its inception, party working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday announced that the organisation, which played a pivotal role in achieving statehood for Telangana, would soon be entering its 25th year. Addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan, he reflected on the BRS journey over the last 25 years, emphasising the significant achievements and struggles it faced. He noted that his 18 years of association with the party were marked by relentless efforts to advocate for the State's interests and

its people. Acknowledging that the party was no longer in power, he emphasised that this had not diminished the leadership's steely resolve to fight for the State and its people. At the same time, quoting the reports of a survey that had taken as many as 64,000 samples across the State to feel the pulse of the people, he said in case of an election today, the BRS would register a thumping victory all over the State and a washout was in the offing for Congress-elected representatives, including the 10 MLAs who defected from the BRS, he said. "Power may have gone, but our determination remains unwavering," he said, adding that the BRS contin-



ued to advocate for the State's interests with the same vigour and commitment. Reiterating the party's commitment to a better future for Telangana, he highlighted that BRS' resilience and dedication were testament to its leaders and members' unwavering commitment to the State's progress and development. Recounting the series of challenges that the BRS had

endured, he said the party was not down on any count despite the fact that it lost to the Congress in the Assembly polls by a slim margin. Party president K Chandrashekar Rao had sustained injuries after an accidental fall and underwent a total hip replacement. BRS leader K Kavitha was arrested and 10 MLAs defected from the party. The party suffered another electoral setback in the parliamentary polls. Despite these setbacks, the party stood up for the people and remained in the midst of their fight for justice, emphasising that if it had been any other organisation, it might have bowed down and surrendered. However, the BRS, born out of struggle and having

achieved Statehood, strongly believed in fighting for just causes and standing with the people through stress and strain. While the State Congress headquarters appeared desolate, Telangana Bhavan, the BRS headquarters, was always bustling with activity. Various sections of people were approaching the BRS for help, from Lagacherla victims to those displaced by HYDRAA. The BRS had become a beacon of hope for many, with people from different walks of life seeking assistance. The party's legal team deserves all credit for leading the legal fight on behalf of these individuals, ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Now, expired medicines given to students

STATE BUREAU
Mahabubabad

In yet another case of official negligence, expired medicines were allegedly given to students of the Social Welfare Boys' Hostel at Cheralpalem in Thorrur mandal during a medical camp on Friday. According to reports, a medical camp was organised by the Health Department at the hostel and after conducting medical examinations, some students were given medicines for different ailments. But, the students noticed that some of the medicines were expired. They immediately informed the school authorities, who asked the students not to consume the medicines. The school authorities have reportedly informed the matter to the higher-ups.

STORM DARRAGH HITS UK



Waves crash during Storm Darragh over the seafront in Porthcawl in Wales on Saturday. A man died and hundreds of thousands of people in Britain and Ireland were left without power as high winds and heavy rain battered the region. — Photo: AP

ISKCON temple set afire in Dhaka, idols destroyed

DHAKA/KOLKATA

A group of people set fire to an ISKCON temple in Dhaka district of Bangladesh in the early hours of Saturday. While ISKCON Bangladesh said it was a "family temple" belonging to an ISKCON devotee, the organisation's Kolkata office said "ISKCON Namhatta Centre" was targeted. The attack in Dhour village, under the Turag police station in Dhaka district, took place in the early hours of Saturday. A Turag police station official said a manhunt was launched to track down the culprits. According to Charu Chandra Das Brahmachary, general secretary of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Bangladesh, the temple was set on fire after lifting the tin



People protest the atrocities on religious minorities in Bangladesh, at Bhadarwah in Doda district of J&K on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

roof. "The fire was, however, doused quickly but an idol was damaged and curtains burnt," he added. In India, however, ISKCON Kolkata vice president Radharamn Das said the "vandals set ablaze idols inside the temple at the Namhatta property." "ISKCON Namhatta Centre burned down in Bangladesh. The deities of Sri Sri Laxmi

Narayan and all items inside the temple were burned down completely. Early morning between 2-3 am, miscreants set fire to the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple and Shri Shri Mahabhagya Lakshmi Narayan Temple. The fire was initiated by lifting the tin roof at the back of the temple and using petrol or octane," Das posted on X. **PTI**

Case filed against Kaushik Reddy

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Gachibowli police registered a case against BRS MLA P Kaushik Reddy for allegedly threatening police officials on Thursday. On Wednesday evening, the MLA had gone to the Banjara Hills police station to lodge a complaint alleging that his phone was being tapped and he wanted the issued to be inquired. During his visit, the MLA found Banjara Hills Inspector KM Raghavendra was leaving the station and he stopped him at the gate. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

I.N.D.I.A bloc's future uncertain

NEW DELHI

Questions are being raised on the future of the I.N.D.I.A opposition bloc as differences among several of its constituents are now coming to the fore and voices emerging for serious introspection by the Congress. The latest point of friction has come from Maharashtra, where the Samajwadi Party (SP) has announced quitting the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) after a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader hailed the Babri masjid's demolition. The SP and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) were also not seen with their other

As differences among its constituents come to the fore, Mamata signals her intent to take charge of alliance if given opportunity

I.N.D.I.A bloc partners during protests on the Adani issue. There are differences among the partners on other issues both inside and outside Parliament. Parties are now flexing their muscles within the bloc, especially after the shocking defeat of the Con-

gress in the Haryana and Maharashtra elections. With a "weak" Congress after a poor poll show, some opposition parties feel that it should introspect and be accommodative towards others. They are also speaking out against the "dominance" of the Congress in the opposition alliance. Amid the disagreements on issues among the partners, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of the bloc while signalling her intent to take charge of the alliance if given the opportunity. The TMC supremo

has said she can manage the dual responsibility of running the opposition front while continuing on her role as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. All eyes are now on the Congress over its next move as the principal opposition party increasingly finds itself singled out in Parliament on several issues — protests on Adani and farmers' issues, with many of its partners staying away. The opposition alliance was formed in June 2023 with the motto of "BJP hatao, desh bachao" ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. **(SEE PAGE 2)**
(SP WALKS OUT OF MVA PAGE 7)

US denies backing anti-India agenda

NEW DELHI

The US on Saturday rejected the BJP's allegations that organisations funded by the US State Department and elements in the American "deep state" were behind attempts to destabilise India through targeted attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and business tycoon Gautam Adani. A spokesperson at the US embassy described the allegations as "disappointing" and asserted that the US government has been a

champion of media freedom around the world. The BJP alleged that the US deep state colluded with the media portal OCCRP (Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to "damage" India's image. It cited his use of OCCRP reports to attack Adani Group and accuse it of closeness with the government. "It's disappointing that the ruling party would make these kinds of accusations," the US spokesperson said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Roads turn deadly

5 die as car plunges into lake

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Five friends, who were on late night long drive, were killed when their car plunged into the Jalalpur Cheruvu in Yadadri Bhongir district on Saturday. The five — Harsha, Dinesh, Vamsi, Balu and Vinay, all aged between 20 and 25, along with lone survivor Medaboina Manikanta — were residents of Hyderabad. The friends started from LB Nagar late on Friday to head towards Valigonda

and return to the city the next morning. According to Chotuppal ACP P Madhusudhan Reddy, the driver failed to notice a sharp left curve on the road and drove straight. He lost control over the vehicle and the car plunged into the lake at a high speed. One of the six occupants, Manikanta, escaped by breaking a window. He told media persons that there were six people, including him, in the ill-fated car. Four of them were seated in the back and two in the front seat. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Two killed as bike rams electric pole

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Two youngsters were killed in a road accident at Pethasheerabad on the city outskirts early on Saturday. The victims were identified as Karthik Reddy (23) and Anil (23). The incident occurred when the motorcycle on which they were riding on rammmed an electric pole at high speed leading to severe injuries. Both of them died on the spot, police said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Cops net ambulance thief after 150-km chase

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a true filmy style, a thief stole an ambulance parked at a hospital in Hayathnagar on the city outskirts and drove about 150 km as police vehicles chased him down before taking him into custody at Suryapet. An Assistant Sub-Inspector, who tried to intercept the vehicle, was injured when the thief hit him with the ambulance. The ASI's condition is stated to be critical. The drama unfolded at a private hospital at Hayathnagar on Saturday morning when the driver of the am-



The 108 ambulance which was stolen from a hospital in Hayathnagar on Hyderabad's outskirts.

balance parked the vehicle and went inside with the staff. The thief, who was loitering around, took to the

steering and zoomed away. On noticing the ambulance missing, the 108 ambulance driver alerted the

police. Then, the action commenced with the ambulance blaring sirens and moving on the highway and the police vehicles chasing it leaving passersby bemused at the unusual scene. A message was flashed by the Rachakonda Police to all police stations enroute the Vijayawada highway. The Nalgonda and Suryapet police, too, were alerted. At the Pathangi toll plaza, when the police tried to stop the ambulance, the driver hit the toll gate and went ahead. The chase continued with people joining the police convoy. The thief managed to evade the efforts of the police at several

points, venturing even to run over ASI John Reddy at Chityala, leaving the cop severely injured. Reddy was shifted to a private hospital in Hyderabad, where his condition is stated to be critical. After the thief crashed through the Korlapad toll gate, the police set up a roadblock lining up trucks across the highway at Tekumatla in Suryapet mandal where the two-and-a-half-hour pursuit ended in the arrest of the vehicle-lifter. The suspect, who is said to be involved in a series of major thefts, was arrested by the Hayathnagar police and remanded.