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**Onus on Pakistan to improve ties, says PM**



WORLD | PAGE 09

**Massive storm leaves at least 35 dead across US**

Violent tornadoes, high winds, blinding dust storms decimate homes and other structures



SPORT | PAGE 10

**New Zealand beat Pakistan by 9 wickets in first T20I**

**In a nutshell**

**LeT commander killed in Pakistan**

**NEW DELHI:** A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, wanted by Indian security agencies for several deadly terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, was eliminated by gunmen in an attack in Pakistan, officials said on Sunday. Zia-ur-Rehman alias Nadeem alias Abu Qatal alias Qatal Sindhvi was gunned down in Jhelum of Punjab on Saturday. His security guard was also killed, the officials said, quoting information from the country. PTI

**Now, cleric targets Shami's daughter**

**BAREILLY:** A cleric who had claimed cricketer Mohd Shami committed a sin by not fasting during Ramzan has described the Holi celebrations of the pacer's daughter as "illegal" and "against Shariat". In a video released late on Saturday, All India Muslim Jamaat president Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi said, "If she is sensible and still plays Holi, then it will be considered against Shariat." PTI

**Trump orders strikes on Houthis**

**WEST PALM BEACH:** President Donald Trump said he ordered a series of airstrikes on the Houthi-held areas in Yemen, promising to use "overwhelming lethal force" until the Iran-backed rebels cease their attacks on shipping along a vital maritime corridor. The Houthis said at least 31 people were killed, and Trump's National Security Adviser said the strikes had successfully targeted "multiple" Houthi leaders. WORLD PAGE 9

**India, New Zealand resume FTA talks**

**NEW DELHI:** After a gap of about 10 years, India and New Zealand on Sunday announced the resumption of negotiations for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to boost economic ties. India and New Zealand began negotiating the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in April 2010 to boost trade in goods, services, and investment. But, the talks stalled in February 2015. NATION PAGE 8

**Ramzan Timings**

**Iftar** Monday 6:32 PM  
**Saheer** Tuesday 5:00 AM

**RURAL SPORT**



A participant rides a bullock cart during a State-level bullock cart race organised by villagers at Nanganahalli near Chikmagalur in Karnataka on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

## 7-year jail for passport fraud

**Rs 10 lakh fine to also be imposed, according to new Bill**

NEW DELHI

Anyone found using a forged passport or visa for entering, staying or exiting India will be punished with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine to the extent of Rs 10 lakh if the new immigration Bill is approved by Parliament. The legislation, piloted by the Union Home Ministry, also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities, other educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners. All international

Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or visa for entering into India shall be punished too

— IMMIGRATION BILL

airlines and ships will also be required to submit at a port or place in India the passenger and crew manifest, the advance information of passengers and crew on board of such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport. "Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other

travel document or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from India, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years, but may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, but may extend to ten lakh rupees," according to the

bill introduced in Lok Sabha on March 11.

It also says that any foreigner who enters into any area in India without a valid passport or other travel document, including visa required for such entry in contravention of provisions of the law or of any rule or order given in pursuance thereof, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years with a fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or with both. The legislation empowers the Centre to exert control over places that are "frequented by any foreigner". PTI

## 59 killed in fire at Macedonia club

KOCANI (NORTH MACEDONIA)

A massive fire tore through a nightclub in North Macedonia's eastern town of Kocani early Sunday, killing 59 people and injuring 155, authorities said.

The blaze broke out around 2.30 am during a concert by a local pop group at Club Pulse, Interior Minister Panche Toshkovski told reporters. He said 39 of the dead had so far been identified. He said, following an initial assessment, pyrotechnics likely caused

the roof to catch fire. Videos showed chaos inside the club, with young people running through the smoke as the musicians urged people to escape quickly.

As relatives gathered outside hospitals to await news, Kocani resident Dragi Stojanov was informed that his 21-year-old son Tomce had died in the fire. "He was my only child. I don't need my life anymore," he said. "One hundred and fifty families have been devastated." The injured have been taken to hospitals. AP

## OU makes U-turn on ban on campus protests

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

After a huge uproar from the student and teaching community, the Osmania University administration on Sunday took a 'U' turn on a circular that prohibited protests and dharna on the campus.

In a statement on Sunday, OU Registrar Prof G Naresh Reddy said the circular issued on March 13 does not impose a blanket ban on student protests or agitations in open spaces within the

university. The restrictions apply exclusively to the academic and administrative spaces within college departments and administrative premises, he said. "The aim of the circular is to pre-

vent disruptions that interfere with the smooth functioning of the university's academic and administrative processes," he said.

The Registrar cited recent incidents, such as unauthorised occupation of the Principal's room at Nizam College, disruptive activities at the University College of Arts & Social Sciences and the forcible occupation of the Registrar's office for over four hours and said they hindered essential academic and administrative work. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

## Incentives elude top-notch shooter Dhanush



Dhanush Srikanth is a double gold medallist in 2021 Deaflympics and a gold medallist in ISSF World Cup (regular) events.

VV SUBRAHMANYAM

Hyderabad

The long wait continues! What more big achievers like shooter Dhanush Srikanth have still to do to get the recognition from the authorities which is long due for them?

Well, this might be the thinking of the likes of Dhanush and their parents as they still await any formal announcements of incentives? For the record, the 22-year-old, hearing-impaired Dhanush is a double gold medallist in the 2021 Deaflympics and also a gold medallist in the ISSF World Cup (regular) events. A product of London Olympics bronze medallist

Gagan Narang, this gifted shooter defied all odds as did his parents in pursuing his passion for the sport and more importantly performing consistently.

Ever since he made his debut in the 2018 Telangana State championship, winning three gold medals in the junior, youth and senior categories and soon winning another three gold in 10-m air rifle events in the Asian championship, Dhanush has clearly signalled his arrival on the big stage. Yet, for him, even as the medals have been coming thick and fast at the highest level, but not so with regard to incentives. Ironically, authorities are generous in giving cash in-

centives and house sites to a select, lucky few. While nobody questions the beneficiaries' credentials, there is always a question mark as to why the likes of Dhanush get the raw deal?

It can be a simple case of the powers-that-be being completely unaware of the credentials of some of the big achievers in the world of sports or there were other factors — the most important being pulling the right strings in the higher-ups — to get the benefits.

Even when there was a clear-cut Sports Policy which defines the kind of cash incentives a performing athlete deserves, it is rarely followed in practice. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Demonetised currency seized

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force seized demonetised currency with a face value of Rs 55,52,500 from four persons at Abids on Saturday night.

Acting on a tipoff, the team caught Syed Muzammil (48), Amzad Khan (42), Palthi Bhaskar (46) and Shaik Naseema (50).

According to the police, Muzammil prior to demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes had Rs 30 lakh, but his family did not get it exchanged in banks for fear of income tax issues. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Revanth lying on Krishna water share: Harish

**Says TG's share was protected under previous BRS govt, Cong govt now surrendering it to AP**

STATE BUREAU

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao tore into Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's misleading claims in the Assembly on Krishna water allocations, terming them as attempts to cover up the Congress government's failures.

Telangana's rightful share of Krishna water was protected under the previous BRS regime, unlike the Congress government, which was surrendering it to Andhra Pradesh, he said.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Harish Rao systematically dismantled what he called 'falsehoods' stated by Revanth Reddy and presented facts on Telangana's share of Krishna waters, the historic injustices meted out to the State and the BRS government's efforts to ensure justice.

The BRS MLA dismissed claims that former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao failed Mahabubnagar in securing Krishna waters, stating that it was the BRS chief's foresight that paved the way for Telangana's rightful share. He pointed out that Chandrashekhara Rao initiated the process for Section 3 recognition, which legally strengthened Telangana's claim over 70 per cent of Krishna waters. In contrast, the Congress-backed Bifurcation Act proposed an unjust sharing of

### 'ANTI-TELANGANA OFFICIAL IRRIGATION ADVISOR OF REVANTH'

**HYDERABAD:** Senior BRS leader T Harish Rao found fault with the appointment of former IAS officer Aditya Nath Das as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's advisor on irrigation matters. Aditya Nath Das, the former Andhra Pradesh irrigation secretary, played a direct role in denying Telangana its due share and misleading the Supreme Court with false data. "This man, who betrayed Telangana's interests and was penalised by the Supreme Court for misleading on irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh, has now been made an advisor by Revanth Reddy," he lashed out.

### HARISH CHALLENGES CM'S CLAIMS ON TELANGANA'S FINANCES

**HYDERABAD:** Countering Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks on the State's debts in the Assembly, BRS leader T Harish Rao challenged him to a debate on the State's finances and governance. He charged the Congress government with misleading the public on debts and blaming the previous BRS regime to cover up its inability to fulfil electoral promises. Dismissing Revanth Reddy's claims on Telangana's debt, Harish cited statistics from the Congress government's own White Paper. He said before the Assembly polls, Revanth had accused KCR of exploiting the poor with LRS and promised to make it free. (FULL REPORT PAGE 5)

### Congress, TDP's historic betrayal of Telangana

Pointing to the historical injustice, Harish Rao exposed how successive Congress and TDP governments neglected irrigation development in Telangana. While Andhra Pradesh built projects consuming 512 TMC of Krishna water, Telangana was left with only 299 TMC due to lack of irrigation infrastructure. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Extremely dry weather, heatwave for next 48 hours



A man offers free drinking water to children on a hot Sunday afternoon in Hyderabad.

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

Extremely dry weather, along with heatwave conditions, are likely to remain active in parts of Telangana for the next 48 hours, before temperatures start to drop, the India Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad said in its three-day weather forecast on Sunday.

"Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail at isolated pockets in Adilabad, Kumram Bheem, Asifabad, Mancherial and Jagtial districts. There will be no large change in maximum temperatures during the next two days," IMD-Hyderabad officials said.

On Sunday, the maximum temperature in districts hovered between 40 and 41°C, while in Hyderabad,

the average of the maximum temperatures till 5.30 pm was 39.2°C. The maximum temperatures in Hyderabad, during the next three-four days, will remain less than 40°C, the forecast said. Meanwhile, weather forecaster T Balaji said the present weather conditions were indicating that extreme dry air will grip Telangana. "Extremely dry weather to grip Telangana from Sunday. Heatwave, however, will continue as usual. During mornings, weather will also become comfortable due to humidity drop," he said.

Relief from the heatwave-like conditions will be between March 20 and 24, when Hyderabad and other parts of the State are expected to receive thunder-showers.