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Nizam's Christmas challenge to Burton



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Ex-Israeli spies describe pager attacks on Hezbollah

Share details about op that targeted militants using exploding pagers, walkie talkies



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Shami not fully fit yet, ruled out of two Tests in Australia

In a nutshell

Notice issued to Allu Arjun

HYDERABAD: The Chikkadpally police issued notice to actor Allu Arjun, asking him to appear before the police with regard to the investigation into the alleged stampede at Sandhya theatre during the premiere show of *Pushpa 2*. The actor has been asked to appear before the police at 11 am on Tuesday at Chikkadpally police station. The police cited Allu Arjun as accused no. 11 in the case.

Three Khalistani terrorists killed

PILIBHIT/CHANDIGARH: Three suspected Khalistani terrorists allegedly involved in the grenade attack in Gurdaspur were killed in an encounter with police in Pilibhit early on Monday, with Punjab's Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav terming it as a major breakthrough against a Pakistan-sponsored terror module. The success comes after three blasts in different districts of Punjab. **PTI**

No-detention policy scrapped

NEW DELHI: The Centre has scrapped the 'no-detention policy' for classes V and VIII in schools governed by it allowing them to fail students who do not clear the year-end exams, according to officials. Following the amendment to the Right to Education Act in 2019, at least 18 States and Union Territories have already done away with the policy for the two classes. **NATION PAGE 7**

Vinod Kambl in hospital

MUMBAI: Former cricketer Vinod Kambl has been admitted to a hospital here due to deterioration in his health. The 52-year-old was brought to the hospital by one of his fans who also owns the hospital in Bhiwandi's Kalker area in Thane district and his condition is said to be stable, even though the exact reasons for his hospitalisation could not be ascertained. Kambl was admitted on Saturday. **SPORT PAGE 10**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 93
Retail live.....	Rs. 115
With skin.....	Rs. 167
Skinless.....	Rs. 190
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 80

Send Hasina back: B'desh

New Delhi confirms receiving communication for extraditing ousted Prime Minister

PTI
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

Bangladesh's interim government on Monday said it has sent a diplomatic note to New Delhi seeking the extradition of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, a move that may further strain the ties between the two countries.

India confirmed receiving the 'note verbale' or diplomatic communication from the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, but refrained from making any comment on it. Bangladesh's de facto Foreign Minister Touhid Hossain said Dhaka wants Hasina back to face the judicial process. "We have sent a note verbale to the Indian government saying that Bangladesh wants her back here for the judicial process," Hossain said.

In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "We confirm that we have received a Note Verbale from the Bangladesh High Commission today (Monday) in connection with an extradition request." "At this time, we have no comment to offer on this matter," he said in response to a question.



Hasina (77) has been living in India since August 5 when she fled the country following a massive student-led protest that toppled her 16-year regime. Bangladesh-based International Crimes Tribunal has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former

Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power. India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country. Earlier on Monday, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam said his office sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry to facilitate the ousted premier's extradition.

"We have sent a letter to the foreign ministry regarding her extradition. The process is currently underway," he told reporters in response to a query. Alam said an extradition treaty between Dhaka and New Delhi already exists and Hasina could be brought back to Bangladesh under it.

Last month, in an address to the nation on the completion of 100 days of the interim government, Yunus said it would seek the extradition of Hasina. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Kavitha calls out Congress-BJP collusion

Says parties conspiring to suppress regional forces like BRS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS MLC K Kavitha called out a collusion between the Congress and BJP in Telangana, conspiring to suppress regional forces such as the BRS and its president, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.

In an informal interaction with mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Kavitha said the Congress and BJP had proven their "brotherhood", citing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's alleged meetings with BJP leaders in Delhi, followed by the Governor's nod for the ACB to file case in connection with the Formula-E race case and swift action by Central agencies such as the ED, which registered a case on the same charges.

"Both parties do not want strong regional parties and strong leaders like Chandrashekhar Rao, Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar who fight for regional aspirations," she said, adding that the Governor was also favouring the Congress-led government in Telangana.

RATHER THAN PEOPLE, THE REVANTH REDDY GOVERNMENT IS WORKING FOR A FEW SELECT INDIVIDUALS. THE DECISIONS OF THIS GOVERNMENT ARE IN FAVOUR OF THE RICH, WHILE NEGLECTING THE POOR. REVANTH REDDY IS INDULGING IN DIVERSIONARY AND REVENGE POLITICS

— K KAVITHA, BRS MLC



The BRS MLC criticised the BJP and Congress for their policies, particularly regarding farmers, alleging that both parties were undermining agriculture and failing to address agrarian distress. She lashed out at the Congress government for reportedly planning to adopt the PM-KISAN scheme rules for the proposed Rythu Bharosa scheme in Telangana, which she felt would adversely impact several farmers.

She stated that without clarifying on the delay for implementing various schemes promised to farmers, Revanth Reddy was indulging in diversionary politics by targeting the opposition. She urged the Left parties to speak out on behalf of farmers and people of the State, instead of remaining silent for a few political posts. She

felt that replacing the Dharaani portal with the new Bhu Bharati Act would complicate the land registrations process in Telangana.

Kavitha also lambasted BJP leaders Bandi Sanjay Kumar, M Raghunandan Rao and Dharmapuri Arvind for shielding the Congress government which was engaging in diversionary politics. She pointed out that the State government failed to fulfil electoral promises like crop loan waivers, leading to auction of lands belonging to farmers in Kamareddy district.

"Rather than people, the Revanth Reddy government is working for a few select individuals. The decisions of this government are in favour of the rich, while neglecting the poor. Revanth Reddy is indulging in diversionary and revenge poli-

tics," she observed. Remembering the BRS government's achievements, the BRS leader defended the party's resistance to obtaining World Bank funding. "In 10 years, Chandrashekhar Rao did not allow the World Bank interference, ensuring Telangana's autonomy," she said. She questioned why the Congress government which was criticising the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, cleared the bills to its contractors.

Kavitha found fault with the Congress for reducing bus services after implementing free bus travel for women, and also depriving opportunity for the differently abled passengers to travel. She reiterated that BRS would continue its grassroots outreach to expose the Congress government's failures. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Hanamkonda student found dead in US

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

A 25-year-old student from Madannapet in Kamalapur mandal of Hanamkonda district was found dead in a car parked in the basement of the apartment he was staying in Minnesota, United States.

On Sunday, the family members reportedly received information from other students that their son Bandi Vamsi died under suspicious circumstances and that his body was found in a car parked in the cellar of the apartment where he was staying. According to the family, on Saturday night, Vamsi's body was discovered in the driver's seat of the car, following which the residents informed the police.

The next day, his friends alerted them about the incident.

Vamsi went to Minnesota to pursue MS in July last year and had recently taken up a part-time job. Huzurabad constituency Congress in-charge Voditala Pranav visited the family and ensured that he would talk to the State government to repatriate Vamsi's mortal remains.

Meanwhile, Vamsi's parents have appealed to union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay to expedite the repatriation and push for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. The incident has left the family in profound grief as they await further details from the authorities.



BANDI VAMSI WAS FOUND IN A CAR PARKED IN THE CELLAR OF THE APARTMENT WHERE HE WAS STAYING IN MINNESOTA

UoH student's study helps check acid fly attacks

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A University of Hyderabad student, along with a professor, have figured out a way to reduce the perennial pest problem of acid fly attacks on students living in the hostels on the UoH campus.

The duo has discovered that white light emitting diodes, i.e. LED lights, if made available in hostels, can reduce the problem of chronic acid fly attacks. Tejas Anto Kannampuzha, Integrated MSc Sciences (Physics) student at UoH, collaborated with Prof BR Shamanna of the School of Medical Sciences, UoH, to address this issue.

They used a simple technology of the effect of reduced ultraviolet radiation from the light source used in the hostel rooms and its



Tejas Anto Kannampuzha found that acid flies induce acidic burns on skin during night contact called Paederus dermatitis and are considered a global pest.

effect on acid fly attacks. Tejas' research revealed that the rate of acid fly attacks in hostel rooms with LED lights was far lesser as compared to rooms with other sources of light, such as CFL or incandescent lamps. The consequence of this research, published in

the prestigious Indian Journal of Entomology in December 2024, is significant for university campus as just by altering the light source in the hostel rooms — switching to LED lights can significantly reduce this perennial but irritating pest problem. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Shyam Benegal dies, KTR condoles

MUMBAI: Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, who heralded the Indian parallel cinema movement in the 1970s and 1980s, died on Monday, his daughter said. He was 90. The filmmaker passed away at Mumbai's Wockhardt Hospital due to chronic kidney disease. BRS working president KT Rama Rao said: "Deeply saddened by the passing of legendary filmmaker and son of the soil, Shyam Benegal. A Dadasaheb Phalke and Padma Bhushan awardee, his iconic debut film *Ankur* shed light on Telangana's feudal past. His legacy will inspire generations," he said on X. **(REPORT PAGE 12)**



Techie loses Rs 11 cr to 'digital arrest'

BENGALURU: A 39-year-old software engineer became a victim to a 'digital arrest' scam and lost Rs 11.8 crore when fraudsters impersonating police officials claimed that his Aadhaar card was being misused to open bank accounts for money laundering, police said. The fraud occurred between November 25 and December 12. The victim alleged that on November 11, he received a call from a person who claimed to be an officer of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The officer claimed that his SIM card, which was linked to his Aadhaar, was used for illegal advertisements and harassment messages. **PTI**

Crime rate jumps 4% in Rachakonda this year

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Rachakonda Police Commissionerate on Monday reported a 4 per cent increase in the overall crime rate in 2024, with 33,084 cases, including cybercrimes, reported this year.

Compared to last year, there was an 11 per cent increase in murders, 10 per cent increase in kidnaps and 17 per cent increase in rape cases. But crime against women decreased by 9 per cent, said Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu, while presenting the annual report on Monday. He attributed the implementation of a three-pronged

Rs 5 CR LOST DAILY TO CYBER CROOKS

HYDERABAD: The people of Telangana suffered losses amounting to Rs 1,866 crore due to cyber frauds in 2024. This translates to an average daily loss of nearly Rs 5 crore. The most common cyber frauds included business investment/stock frauds, part-time jobs, digital arrest, fake customer care and debit/credit card frauds. The highest complaints related to cyber crime were from Cyberabad, Hyderabad and Rachakonda. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

"VQT" strategy for achieving better results this year.

"This year, our focus was on Visible Policing, Quick Response and Technology integration to combat rising crimes, particularly those affecting women and victims across other sections of the society," he said. While the

total caseload for this year was 33,084 cases, the Rachakonda Police had a resolution rate of 76 per cent, the highest in the State, Sudheer Babu said. For the sixth consecutive year, the police had the highest conviction rate of 64 per cent in major crimes. **(SEE PAGES 2, 3)**

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