

National News

3 NIA officers accused of seeking bribe in case against Hafiz Saeed, removed

Agency
New Delhi Aug 20,

Three officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) who were probing a terror funding case have been removed for allegedly asking for bribe, the NIA Tuesday said. Pakistan-based Hafiz Saeed, the globally designated terrorist, is accused in this case. The NIA, the country's federal anti-terror investigation agency, was probing funds being sent to India to set-up a terror network in the country. The three officials include a superintendent of Police, officials who didn't want to be

named said. Two of the three officers accused of bribery have been sent packing to their parent organization, a senior NIA official said on conditions of anonymity. A third officer has been moved to a non-sensitive role in an NIA branch office. Asked, the NIA spokesperson said the agency had received a complaint of misconduct against the three officers. "An enquiry into the allegations is being conducted by a Deputy Inspector General-rank officer. In the meantime, the three officials concerned have been transferred out to ensure a fair probe," the NIA

spokesperson said in reply to a query. The NIA had searched the premises of a Delhi-based business man for allegedly handling slush funds sent from Pakistan via Dubai. The officials who have been removed allegedly asked for a bribe to go easy on the businessman, the official said. The NIA was set-up after 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case. It exclusively handles terror cases. Recently, the NIA was given more powers and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was amended to name individuals as terrorist.

PM Narendra Modi to focus global at next month's big UN event, Imran Khan to stick to Jammu and Kashmir

Agency
New Delhi Aug 20,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27, hours before Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, and speak on diverse issues such as climate change, universal health coverage, sustainable development goals, financing for development initiatives, and assistance for small island developing states (SIDS), according to people familiar with the matter. According to diplomats based in New York and New Delhi, as per the initial list issued by the UN,

Modi will speak in the General Debate at around 7.30pm-8.00pm IST on September 27, followed by others including Khan, who is expected to speak around midnight (IST) on the same day. Khan may speak earlier than his scheduled time if some other leaders drop out of the UNGA at the last minute, the people added. While Khan is expected to spend his entire 20-minute speech on alleged human rights violations by India in Kashmir after the nullification of Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution, PM Modi is not to engage with the issue maintaining India's stand that Jammu & Kashmir is an internal matter

At most, India will use the right of reply to rebut any allegations made by PM Khan regarding the region, the people cited above said. Pakistan is already pushing hard with its old ally China and the UK for a special session at the forthcoming meeting of UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Kashmir in Geneva from September 9. Islamabad and Beijing were rebuffed by the remaining 13 members of UNSC while trying to have an open session on Kashmir during informal consultations on the issue last week, with Moscow taking a position that the issue should be handled bilaterally.

Donald Trump asks 'good friends' PM Modi, Imran Khan to dial down tensions, rhetoric

Agency
Washington Aug 20,

Shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue of "extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence" not being conducive to peace in the region, President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Imran Khan, the unidentified culprit, to tell him "to reduce tensions and moderate rhetoric". In a day of fast-paced developments starting with a phone call between Modi and Trump and followed by one between Trump and Khan, the United States president sought to make clear his priority was to reduce tensions in the region. "Spoke to my two good

friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir," Trump wrote on Twitter Monday, referring to phone calls with Modi and Khan. "A tough situation, but good conversations!" Trump has been effusive in his praise and personal regard of PM Modi, calling him, previously, a "good friend" and a "great gentleman", as he has been with other world leaders such as China's Xi Jinping and Japan's Shinzo Abe. UK's Boris Johnson joined that list in a later tweet Monday. But including Khan in that category of "good friends"

may mark a significant departure for the president who had rung in the year 2018 with a devastating tweet accusing Pakistan of returning only "lies and deceit" for the billions in aid it had received from the United States to battle terrorists it was supporting. After the morning call with Modi, Trump spoke to Khan, for the second time in four days. "The President reaffirmed the need to avoid escalation of the situation, and urged restraint on both sides," said the White House on that call, adding, "The two leaders also agreed to work together to strengthen United States-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation." In an earlier phone

conversation, Prime Minister Modi had complained to President Trump about "extreme rhetoric" emanating from Pakistan, without naming it, and the American president has stressed the "importance" of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan and maintaining peace in the region. In the same call, Trump had stressed the "importance of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan and maintaining peace in the region." Trump followed up with a call to Khan shortly after. "The President reaffirmed the need to avoid escalation of the situation, and urged restraint on both sides," a White House readout of their conversation said.

Dissidence breaks out in Karnataka BJP after Yediyurappa gets new cabinet

Agency
Bangalore Aug 20,

Twenty-five days after he was sworn in as Chief Minister for a fourth time, BS Yediyurappa got to finally induct 17 cabinet colleagues. While the party high command seems to have deliberately left 16 slots empty to contain any possible dissidence and retain the elbow room to reward some of the 17 'rebel' MLAs of the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) - whose membership has been terminated by the Speaker - there was a frisson of unhappiness immediately

after the swearing-in. Several senior party leaders such as Umesh Katti, Muruges Niran, Balachandra Jharkiholi, Renukacharya and Basvraj Patil Yataln did not even come to the swearing in of their own party's new cabinet. One of the ministerial aspirants GH Thippa Reddy, a four-time BJP MLA from Chitradurga expressed his 'surprise and pain' at the list of ministers. Reddy also said like minded legislators would meet over the next few days to consider their course of action including bringing to the party High Command's

notice that 'loyal and senior' party legislators having been left out of the ministry. Protests also broke out in Chitradurga by Reddy's supporters who shouted slogans demanding 'justice' from the party high command even as traffic was partially disrupted at the Gandhi Circle in the city by the supporters burning tyres. Another BJP legislator of Sullia, S Angara, a six-term MLA also hit out saying that his constituents were unhappy that he was denied the chance of becoming a minister. "I have practised

ethics and values in public life. It is unfortunate that those values are being ignored," he said. Umesh Katti is also an eight-time legislator while Basvraj Patil Yataln is a former union minister. Their absence from the swearing in apart from those of other senior leaders is also likely to impact the government in the future. Other BJP leaders, off the record, also complained of lack of representation to coastal Karnataka and Hyderabad-Karnataka regions of the state apart from certain castes not being given any ministryship.

Karnataka CM inducts 17 new ministers in his Cabinet

Agency
New Delhi Aug 20,

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa today expanded his Cabinet with the induction of 17 new Ministers. Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers in a function held in Raj Bhavan this morning. Prominent leaders including Govind Karajol, C N Ashwath

Narayan, Laxman Savadi, K S Eeshwarappa, R Ashok, Jagadish Shetter and B Sreeramulu are among those who sworn in today. The lone Independent MLA H Nagesh has also been inducted into the cabinet. Among the 17 Cabinet Ministers, Jolle Shashikala Annasaheb is the only woman minister. Yediyurappa announced that a Cabinet meeting will be held after the expansion.

Twenty six days after assuming office, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa expanded his ministry today. This is the first expansion of the Council of Ministers after he assumed office on 26th July and proved his government's majority on the floor of the Assembly on 29th of July after the previous coalition government collapsed due to the resignation of their 17 MLAs.

SC issues notice to Centre, Social media platforms in cases related to linking of user profiles with Aadhaar

Agency
New Delhi Aug 20,

The Supreme Court today agreed to hear a plea of Facebook Inc. for transfer of cases related to demands for linking of social media profiles of users with Aadhaar number, pending before the high courts of Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh to the apex court. The top court issued notice to the Centre, Google, Twitter, YouTube and others and sought their response by 13th of September.

The bench said the hearing in cases related to linkage of social media use profiles with Aadhaar pending before the Madras High Court will continue but no final order will be passed. The apex court was told by the Tamil Nadu Government yesterday that social media profiles of users need to be linked with Aadhaar numbers to check circulation of fake, defamatory, anti-national and terror material.

Sports News

India's junior women boxers win 4 gold as the team finishes with 12 medals at 3rd Nation's Cup

By a Correspondent
New Delhi, August 20,

India's junior women boxers completed their campaign with a rich haul of four gold, four silver and four bronze medals at the 3rd Nation's Cup in Vrbas, Serbia on Sunday. While the contingent won the Runners-up trophy, India's 48kg gold medalist Tamanna, who blanked Russia's Alena Tremasova 5-0 in the final, picked up the coveted 'Best Foreign Boxer' award.

The other three gold medals were brought by Ambeshori Devi in 57kg, Preeti Dahiya in 60kg and Priyanka in 66kg. Manipur's Ambeshori and Haryana's Dahiya continued their fine runs from the Black Forest Cup in June to secure a hard-fought 3-2 win over Sweden's Duna Sipel and Ukraine's Kristina Kartaviseva respectively. Haryana girl Priyanka, meanwhile, was absolutely flawless and secured a commanding 5-0 win over Russia's Olga Petrashko. In 50kg, Karnataka's Anju Devi failed to repeat her heroics from the Black Forest Cup and had to settle for a silver after going down to Russia's Anastasiya Kirienko 0-5. In 52kg, Maharashtra's rising star Simran Verma lost



to Russia's Valeriia Linkova 0-5 while Haryana's Manshi Dalal (75kg) and Punjab's Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu (80kg) suffered a 0-5 defeat at the hands of Hungary's Varga Boglarka and Russia's Maria Proskunova respectively to grab the other three silver medals. Goa's Ashreya Naik gave her all in a gruelling 63kg semi-final bout but eventually had to taste a 2-3 defeat against local hope Aleksandra Tepavac to bag a bronze. Russia's Viktoriya Zastryalina edged India's Neha 3-2 in 54kg semi-finals forcing the Indian to remain

content with just a bronze. Khushi (70kg) and Alfiya Akram Khan Pathan (+80kg) delivered the rest of the bronze medals having lost to Norway's Nofstad Sunniva and Russia's Valeriia Vorontsova respectively by 0-5. Ragini in 46kg was the only Indian who wasn't successful in getting a medal. 160 boxers from 20 countries had participated in this prestigious tournament. India had sent a 13-member squad out of which 12 returned home with medals, which speaks volumes of India's upcoming boxing talent.

Rajnath Singh emphasizes on indigenization of defence equipment to reduce dependence on imports

Agency
New Delhi Aug 20,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has emphasized the need for indigenization of defence equipment to reduce dependence on imports and improve operational capability of the armed forces. He also stressed on keeping pace with technological advancements to bolster defence production. Mr Singh was speaking at a seminar of Modernization and Indigenization Plans of the Indian Air Force in New Delhi today. The Defence Minister also invited foreign companies to invest in India's defence manufacturing. He said efforts are on to engage the private sector through Make In India initiative in the sector.



The Defence Minister hailed the Indian Air Force as a technologically advanced and extremely potent force. He said the recent offensive strike against terrorist outfits in India's neighbourhood speaks volumes about the reach and lethality of the formidable arm of the Armed Forces. Delivering the key note

address at the seminar, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa said high-end obsolete equipment is being replaced with the indigenously developed. He said operational capability of the Air Force requires induction of the state-of-the-art equipment. He also stressed the need for procurement of more aircraft to project India's air power.