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IN BRIEF



Palla assumes charge as new president of AP TDP

Amaravati: Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao assumed charge as new president of TDP Andhra Pradesh unit. In a programme held at party central office on Friday, he took the responsibilities. TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh also attended the programme and greeted him. On this occasion, (Cont.on P2)

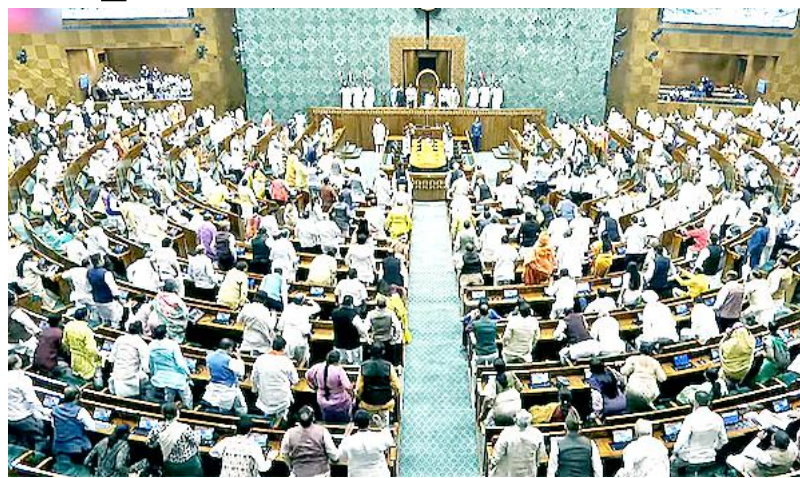


Fresh case filed against former MLA Pinnelli

Palnadu: Former YSR Congress MLA A Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy finds himself embroiled in another legal issue, as a fresh case has been registered against him. The complaint was lodged by Komara Siva, the Telugu Youth Palnadu District secretary, who alleged that Pinnelli (Cont.on P2)

Lok Sabha adjourns for day amid oppn uproar over NEET

New Delhi, Jun 28 (The Capital News): The proceedings of the Lok Sabha were adjourned for the day on Friday as the opposition demanded a discussion on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the medical entrance exam NEET. When the House reassembled at 12 noon, opposition members continued with their demand for a discussion on matters related to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told opposition members that they can discuss the matter during the course of the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. Birla said there are certain norms of Parliament that have to be followed and committees have to be formed to which



Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said students are not aware of it. They are only demanding justice. As members from the Congress, TMC and DMK parties stormed the Well, Rijiju said it is for the first time that the opposition is seen demanding a discussion on an issue before the

House takes up the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. "I assure the opposition we will answer any issue that you raise during the Motion of Thanks discussion," Rijiju said. As members continued with sloganeering, Birla said the people have elected (Cont.on P2)

Telangana Guv meets AP CM Chandrababu

• Unresolved state bifurcation issues discussed

Vijayawada, June 28 (The Capital News): Telangana Governor C P Radhakrishnan held a special meeting with Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu on

Friday. The Governor traveled from Hyderabad to Vijayawada airport and then proceeded by road to the residence of Chandrababu Naidu in Undavalli. The (Cont.on P2)

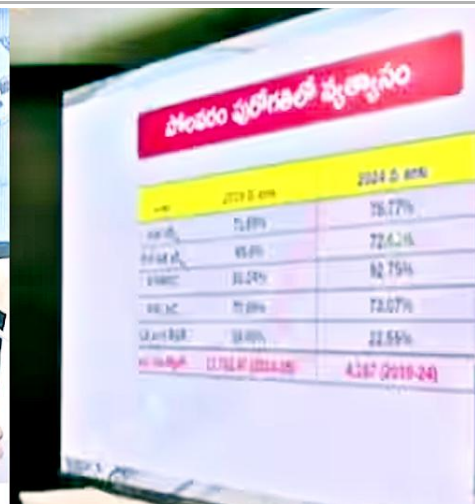


Chandrababu releases white paper on Polavaram

Accuses Jagan government of damaging Polavaram project

Vijayawada, June 28 (The Capital News): Andhra Pradesh chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu released a white paper on the Polavaram project, asserting the project had been significantly undermined over the last five years (2019-

24). The chief minister accused the Jagan government of damaging the Polavaram project and highlighted that during the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) administration, the project progressed smoothly, overcoming numerous (Cont.on P2)



Pending bills total Rs. 14,831 Cr in 17 municipal corporations

K Varaprasadarao

Vijayawada, June 28: The Municipal administration officials disclosed that a staggering Rs. 14,831 crore are currently outstanding across 17 municipal corporations in the state, encompassing 851 pending bills. This disclosure came to light during a review chaired by Municipal Administration minister P Narayana on Friday, alongside senior Secretariat officials overseeing Municipal Corporations.

The review focused on the accumulation of pending bills within the municipal corporations, revealing a significant financial burden. According to official calculations, the total pending amount stands at Rs. 14,831 crore spread across 851 bills. Alarming discrepancies have surfaced where expenses



surpass available funds in several accounts. Of the total pending amount, Rs. 10,232 crore pertain to outstanding dues related to works and schemes under general funds within the corporations. Additionally, Rs. 246 crore remain unpaid for crucial infrastructure projects including roads, drains, buildings, street lights, and drinking water supply. It was disclosed that the previous government

had allocated Rs. 2,532 crore for projects under the 15th Finance Commission, of which the Central government disbursed Rs. 1,730 crore. The State government has only disbursed Rs. 523 crore, diverting the remaining Rs. 1,206 crore to other Navratna schemes. Officials said that contractors have not received the interest dues which leading to incomplete project works.

Reliance, first Indian company, achieves historic milestone, surpasses Rs 21 lakh crore market cap

New Delhi, June 28 (The Capital News): In a historic achievement, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to surpass a market capitalisation of Rs 21.12 lakh crore. On Friday, June 28, the shares of RIL, a diversified conglomerate with interests in oil, telecom, and retail sectors, soared by 2.78 per cent, reaching a fresh all-time high of ₹3,162 during trading on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). This remarkable surge propelled RIL's market cap beyond the Rs 21 lakh crore mark for the first time. The stock's impressive performance was driven by the announcement from Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, a subsidiary of RIL, about new unlimited data plans set to roll out from July 3. These revised tariffs, ranging from Rs 189 for a 2 GB/month plan to Rs 3,599 for an annual plan with 2.5 GB/day, include unlimited 5G data for plans offering 2 GB/day and above. Market analysts highlighted that the tariff adjustments were in line with expectations. However, Jio's initiative in leading the tariff hike and its strategic focus on enhancing returns on investments were perceived positively by brokerage firms.



Airtel, Reliance Jio announce significant tariff hikes by 21, 25 percent

New Delhi, June 28 (The Capital News): In a move that is set to immensely impact mobile phone consumers across India, the country's top two telecom operators, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, have announced substantial increases in mobile tariffs. Bharti Airtel has disclosed a tariff hike ranging between 10 percent to 21 percent, which will

take effect from July 3. This follows a similar announcement by Reliance Jio, signaling a major shift in the pricing landscape of the Indian telecom sector. Reliance Jio, which led the change with an announcement on June 27, has increased its tariffs by 25 percent. Bharti Airtel followed suit with a hike ranging from 10 (Cont.on P2)

Delhi govt to hold emergency meeting on heavy rain, water logging in city

New Delhi, Jun 28 (The Capital News) The Delhi government will hold an emergency meeting on Friday afternoon to take stock of the situation in the city after heavy rains left the national capital waterlogged and brought traffic to a standstill in many areas. All Cabinet ministers and top officials will attend the meeting that will be held at the Secretariat at 2 pm, officials said. Heavy rains hit normal life in Delhi. A portion of the roof of the Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapsed due to the rain, leaving one person dead and six injured. The Safdarjung weather station recorded 153.7 mm of rainfall, which began around 3 am. Delhiites shared on social media videos and photos of submerged vehicles on waterlogged roads and of long traffic jams.



World Kamma Mahasabha in Hyd from June 20

Hyderabad: The inaugural World Kamma Mahasabha will take place at HICC, in Hyderabad on July 20-21, organised by the Kamma Global Federation (KGF). Jetty Kusum Kumar, founder of the organization, announced that prominent figures including former Vice-President (Cont.on P2)



Reliance Industries mcap tops Rs 21 lakh crore mark amid rally in shares

New Delhi: Shares of Reliance Industries climbed over 2 per cent on Friday, taking its market valuation above the Rs 21 lakh crore mark. The heavyweight stock rose by 2.31 per cent to settle at Rs 3,131.85 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 3.27 per cent to hit a record high of Rs 3,161.45. It was the biggest gainer among the 30-share BSE Sensex firms. On the NSE, the stock climbed 2.19 per cent to settle at Rs 3,128.25 each. The company's market valuation jumped by Rs 47,777.57 crore to Rs 21,18,951.20 crore. Reliance Industries is the country's most valued firm by market capitalisation (mcap). In volume terms, 10.33 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 144.77 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. So far this year, shares of Reliance Industries have jumped 21.16 per cent on the BSE. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on February 13 this year became the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of Rs 20 lakh crore.



Boy mauled to death by dogs in Telangana

Hyderabad: A six-year-old boy was mauled to death by a pack of dogs in Sangareddy district of Telangana on Friday, police said. The boy, son of construction workers from Bihar, Friday morning went to answer nature's call behind the camp where they stay when the dogs attacked him, police said. Death was instant for him. The boy's parents work at a construction site near Patancheru in the district, police added.

Another BRS MLA joins Congress, sixth in four months

Hyderabad, June 28: In yet another jolt to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), its MLA Kale Yadaiah joined the ruling Congress on Friday. Yadaiah, who represents the Chevella constituency in Rangareddy district, joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmunshi and other leaders in Delhi. Yadaiah is the sixth MLA of BRS to defect to the Congress party in the last four months. The BRS has lost three MLAs to Congress during the last week. Several senior leaders of BRS switched loyalties to Congress since the latter came to power in December 2023. It is a homecoming for Yadaiah, who had defected to BRS in 2015 a few months after he was elected to Assembly on a Congress ticket. In 2018, he retained the Chevella seat as BRS candidate. In the Assembly elections held in November 2023, Yadaiah won Chevella seat for



a third consecutive term, defeating Congress party's P. Beem Bharat by a slender margin of 268 votes. Yadaiah had met Revanth Reddy in March, triggering speculations that he would join Congress soon. The MLA had clarified that he met the Chief Minister to discuss development pro-

grammes in his constituency. BRS MLA and former Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy joined the Congress party on June 21. The MLA from Banswada in Nizamabad district is a prominent leader and a former minister. Two days later, BRS MLA from Jagtial constituency M. Sanjay Kumar joined the Congress. However, Sanjay Kumar's admission triggered dissent in the party with senior leader and former minister T. Jeevan Reddy threatening to resign as Member of Legislative Council. Jeevan Reddy, who had lost to Sanjay in 2018 and 2023 from Jagtial, was unhappy with the Chief Minister for admitting Sanjay into the party without consulting him. The central leadership of Congress has summoned Jeevan Reddy to Delhi to pacify him. The former minister also questioned the need for making BRS MLAs defect to Congress when the ruling party is strong with 65 members in the 119-member Assembly. BRS had won 39 seats in the 119-member Assembly. The series of defections and the defeat in the recent by-election to Secunderabad Cantonment constituency brought down its strength to 32.

Telangana HC reserves order on KCR's plea to stay inquiry

Hyderabad, June 28: The Telangana High Court on Friday reserved its orders on maintainability of a writ petition filed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy, seeking a stay on further proceedings of Justice L. Narasimha Reddy Commission to investigate the power purchase agreement with Chhattisgarh and the construction of the Bhadradi and Yadadri Thermal Power Plants during the BRS government.



A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti, reserved the orders after hearing the arguments of Advocate General A. Sudhanshu Reddy. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief has sought to strike down the Government Order constituting a one-man Commission headed by a former judge of the High Court. The court, which heard the arguments of KCR's counsel on Thursday, took up further hearing in the case on Friday. The Advocate General dis-

missed the contention of the petitioner's counsel that the Commission acted unilaterally. Earlier, the High Court Registry had declined to allot a number to the petition, raising objection over impleading the retired High Court judge in a personal capacity. KCR's counsel Aditya Sondhi had argued that it was necessary to name Justice Narasimha Reddy as a respondent. He contended that Justice Reddy held a press conference and concluded that the previous gov-

ernment committed irregularities causing a loss of Rs 250 crore to Rs 300 crore to the state exchequer without giving KCR the opportunity to present his contentions before the Commission. Sondhi argued that Justice Reddy holding a press conference was inappropriate as the Commission's sole duty was to submit the report to the government. The High Court overruled the Registry's objections and directed it to allot a number to the petition. The bench later

heard whether KCR's petition should be admitted. KCR's counsel also argued that the order constituting the Enquiry Commission was without jurisdiction since the terms of reference were under adjudication by both the Telangana and Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission. He submitted to the court that the Commission of Inquiry, as constituted under the Act, lacks jurisdiction to make findings on matters already adjudicated by a quasi-judicial authority. The court was told that the Commission had issued notice to KCR seeking details relating to power purchase agreements and construction of power plants. Since he was busy campaigning in the Lok Sabha elections, he sought more time to respond. Even before he could submit his reply, Justice Narasimha Reddy held a press conference on June 15 to say that there were irregularities in power purchase agreements and the construction of power plants.

Chandrababu releases..

(From Page 1) challenges. He recalled that the TDP government achieved a Guinness World Record by completing 32,215 cubic meters of concrete work in the spill channel in a single day. Naidu detailed the TDP government's accomplishments, including the completion of upper and lower coffer dams and head works. He emphasized that the diaphragm wall, a critical component of the project, was completed in a record time of 414 days. Naidu noted that a diaphragm wall extending two kilometers and

over 100 meters deep was constructed by the German company 'Baur'. He mentioned that the spillway gate designs were prepared, and gate installation had commenced during the TDP tenure. Naidu pointed out that all project-related works received approval from the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) and the Central Water Resources Department, with former ministers Uma Bharati and Nitin Gadkari expressing satisfaction with the progress. According to Naidu, 72 per cent of the Polavaram project was completed under the TDP

regime, with Rs 11,537 crore spent on the works. Naidu criticized the YSRCP government's handling of the Polavaram project over the past five years, accusing it of making poor decisions and engaging in reverse tendering dramas. He claimed that the day Jagan Mohan Reddy was sworn in as chief minister in 2019, orders were issued to halt the Polavaram works. Naidu highlighted that notices were served on July 29, 2019, for the construction company to vacate the site, following the Peter Committee report on

July 24, 2019. Naidu explained that the central government concluded no corruption occurred in Polavaram, as stated in Parliament on December 2, 2019. He asserted that changing the contractor further delayed the project and criticized the reverse tendering process as being against the rules. Naidu accused the Jagan government of damaging the Polavaram project, expressing regret that despite claims of saving Rs 738 crore through reverse tenders, the diaphragm wall was ultimately damaged.

Lok Sabha adjourns..

(From Page 1) members to this House so that they can raise an d discuss issues, and not disrupt the proceedings. "There is a difference between protest on the road and protest inside the House... You (Opposition) don't want House to run? You don't want to discuss NEET during Motion of Thanks discussion?" Birla said. As the House continued to see uproar, Birla adjourned the proceedings till Monday. Amid din,

TMC member S K Nurul Islam took oath as a Lok Sabha member. When the House met in morning, opposition members were on their feet seeking the acceptance of an adjournment motion to suspend all business and discuss matters related to NEET. However, the Speaker said he would first take up the obituary references to 13 former members, including ex-Lok Sabha speaker and ex-Maharashtra chief minister

Manohar Joshi. When the obituary references were over, the opposition members were on their feet again. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the NE ET issue is a very important issue for the whole country and they want a dedicated discussion in the House on the matter. Hence, the adjournment motion should be accepted, he said. However, Birla said he could not allow it as the House was about to take up

the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on Thursday. "You can raise all matters in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. You will get enough time. But I can't allow you to raise any other issue during the debate on the Motion of Thanks. It was already decided and mentioned in the bulletin too," he said.

Telangana: Leaders pay tributes to former PM Narasimha Rao on birth anniversary

Hyderabad, June 28: Leaders across the political spectrum in Telangana on Friday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao on his 103rd birth anniversary. Leaders cutting across party lines recalled the services of the late leader, who was posthumously conferred Bharat Ratna in March this year. Telangana ministers, leaders of the ruling Congress, opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and family members of the late leader visited PV Ghat on the banks of Hussain Sagar lake here to pay floral tributes.

Telangana Guv..

(From Page 1) meeting between the two leaders lasted for two hours. Sources from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) described the meeting as a courtesy call, emphasizing that no political issues were officially discussed. However, given the context of TDP being a partner in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), it is believed that a range of topics may have been addressed during the conversation. Moreover, numerous issues related to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, which have been pending between the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, seem to have been part of the discussion.

Airtel, Reliance Jio..

(From Page 1) percent to 20 percent. Both companies' revised plans will become effective starting July 3. In a press release, Bharti Airtel led by Sunil Mittal, emphasized the need for average revenue per user (ARPU) to exceed Rs 300 to sustain a healthy business model, enabling essential investments in network technology and spectrum. Bharti Airtel has specifically adjusted rates across its unlimited voice and daily data plans. For example, prices for unlimited voice plans have seen increases of approximately 11 percent, with rates now adjusted from Rs 179 to Rs 199, Rs 455 to Rs 509, and Rs 1,799 to Rs 1,999. In the daily data plan category, the Rs 479 plan has been raised to Rs 579, reflecting a 20.8 percent hike. This tariff revision marks the first significant increase in the telecom industry in about 30 months, following a subdued response to the recent spectrum auction. Reliance Jio initiated the tariff hike trend with a 12 to 25 percent increase across its mobile plans, highlighting efforts to boost its ARPU, which had stagnated at Rs 181.7 in recent quarters. The simultaneous implementation of the revised plans by Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio on July 3 is expected to influence the trajectory of 5G adoption in India, where both companies have been offering 5G services at 4G prices. As of the end of the fourth quarter of 2024-25, Jio reported 108 million 5G subscribers, while Airtel recorded 72 million. Consumers should brace for higher mobile phone bills as these tariff hikes take effect, marking a significant shift in the Indian telecom sector's pricing dynamics.

Palla assumes ..

(From Page 1) MLA Palla thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for giving him an opportunity to lead the party's responsibilities. He also said that the TDP was only the party in the country to give utmost priority for backward classes. Several MLAs and ministers attended and congratulated him.

Fresh case filed..

(From Page 1) punched him in the stomach at the Macharla court. Following the complaint, the police have registered a case under Section 323 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with voluntarily causing hurt. This new case adds to the former MLA's ongoing legal troubles. Previously, Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy was arrested in connection with attacks that took place on the polling day of the general elections (May 13) and the following day. Following his arrest, he was remanded by the court and is currently held at Nellore Central Jail.

World Kamma ..

(From Page 1) Venkaiah Naidu, AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy will be the chief guests. Kusumakumar highlighted the significance of the Kamma community, which comprises 2.1 crore people globally, accounting for 1.5 percent of India's population. The KGF aims to unite this community on a single platform, focusing on skill development in rural areas, farmer support, organizing meetings, fostering connections with other social classes, and honoring individuals for their exceptional contributions. The Hyderabad conference will address various key topics, including the exchange of intellectual property, information sharing among Kamma families, support for disadvantaged families, management of service programs, recognition of outstanding individuals, youth and political empowerment, agricultural support, and investment and job opportunities. The event marks a significant step towards empowering the Kamma community and promoting their growth and development on a global scale.

PHOTO FEATURE

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Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu meeting with Telangana Governor Radhakrishnan at his residence Undavalli on Friday



Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh interacting visitors as part of Prajadarbar at Undavalli on Friday



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Deputy Chief Minister M Bhattivikramarka paying tributes to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao at Delhi on Friday



Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao assuming office as new president of TDP for Andhra Pradesh unit held in a programme at party central office on Friday



Civil Supplies Minister N Manohar conducting the review with officials on Friday



MP CM Tamesh meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi on Friday



Telangana Governor Radhakrishnan visiting Durga temple in Vijayawada on Friday



TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh welcoming Telangana Governor Radhakrishnan at Undavalli on Friday

Police clash with protesters in Kenya as the military patrols the streets

Nairobi, Jun 27 (The Capital News) Kenyan police on Thursday clashed with protesters in Nairobi before planned protests against a contentious finance bill, despite the president's decision not to sign it after the plans sparked deadly chaos in the capital and saw protesters storming and burning part of the parliament building. Protesters who said last week that they would march to the State House on Thursday say they still don't trust President William Ruto, who has said the tax hikes would be withdrawn and budget cuts would be made. Police have hurled tear gas canisters at groups of protesters attempting to congregate within the central business district. The military has been patrolling the city despite a Wednesday court order that suspended their deployment to support police during the protests. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Wednesday urged the young protesters to call off planned protests and give dialogue a chance. The leaderless movement began online with young people demanding that legislators reject the proposed tax hikes. It later morphed into calls for the presi-

dent's resignation after the bill was passed. On Tuesday, thousands of protesters stormed Kenya's parliament, burning parts of the building and sending lawmakers fleeing. Police opened fire and at least 22 people were reportedly killed in the chaos. Activists were divided about the agenda of Thursday's protests. One protester, Boniface Mwangi, urged others to peacefully march to parliament road where protesters were killed to pay their respects. "Invasion of the State House isn't a solution," he wrote on X. But Francis Gaiho, one of the many activists mobilizing for the protests online, insisted that young people should march to the State House. Activists and others warned that the stakes were higher than in past protests, because Ruto vowed on Tuesday to quash unrest "at whatever cost". Analyst Javas Bigambo told The Associated Press that the discontent is partly because Kenyans don't trust the president to implement the austerity measures he announced on Wednesday. "Kenyans still have a problem with the economy and wastage in government," he said. Bigambo said



Ruto's U-turn should be a "lesson on humility" as his initial reaction on Tuesday was "not stately and full of emotions" further agitating protesters. He said the government should win back the populace by opening dialogue channels and ensuring a consultative budgeting process. Businesspeople in Nairobi were standing guard outside their shops on Thursday to prevent looting and vandalism, which took place during Tuesday's protests. Major roads leading to key

government buildings, including parliament, have been blocked. Outside Nairobi, protests have been reported in Mombasa, Kisumu, Migori and other major towns. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday spoke with Ruto, thanking him for taking steps to reduce tensions. "The Secretary underscored the importance of security forces demonstrating restraint and refraining from violence and encouraged prompt investigations into allegations of human rights abuses," a statement read. Ruto has been embraced by Washington as a welcome, stable partner in Africa, while frustration grows elsewhere on the continent with the US and other Western powers. In May, Ruto went to Washington in the first state visit by an African leader in 16 years. On Tuesday, as the protests erupted, the US designated Kenya as its first major non-NATO ally in sub-Saharan Africa, a largely symbolic act but one highlighting their security partnership. Also Tuesday, hundreds of Kenyan police deployed to lead a multinational force against gangs in Haiti, an initiative that brought thanks from US President Joe Biden.



7.2 magnitude earthquake shakes southern Peru

Lima, Jun 28 (The Capital News) A magnitude 7.2 earthquake shook the southern coast of Peru early Friday. Authorities say there are no immediate reports of casualties. The US Geological Survey said the earthquake occurred at 12:36 am (0536 GMT). The epicentre was located in the Pacific Ocean, some 5 miles (8 kilometres) west of the district of Atiquipa, in the province of Caraveli. That is some 380 miles south of the capital, Lima, near the borders with Chile and Bolivia. The depth was 17 miles (28 kilometres). The earthquake was felt in the nearby regions of Ayacucho, Ica, and the capital, local media reported. Eder Allca, the mayor of the district of Sancos, in the Ayacucho region, told the local radio station RPP that a road in his district suffered rock slides that left several localities cut off. The Hydrography and Navigation Directorate of the Peruvian Navy reported that the seismic event generated a tsunami alert along the Peruvian coast. However, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu said any threat of a tsunami had already passed. Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, as the country is located in the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

Ultra-Orthodox Jews block highway to protest Israel's new mandatory military service ruling

Bnei Brak (Israel), Jun 28 (The Capital News) Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men blocked a major highway in central Israel for two hours on Thursday to protest a recent Supreme Court decision ordering young religious men to enlist for military service. Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. But politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won draft exemptions for their followers that allow them instead to study in religious seminaries. This long-standing arrangement has bred widespread resentment among the broader public — a sentiment that has grown stronger during the eight-month war against Hamas in Gaza. Over 600 soldiers have been killed, and tens of thousands of reservists have been activated, straining careers, businesses and family lives. Protesters sat on the highway and lay on the ground as police lifted them up and dragged them away. Officers mounted on horseback charged into the crowd. Many demonstrators held signs and chanted "To prison! Not to the army!" "We all came here for one goal, we reflect the position of

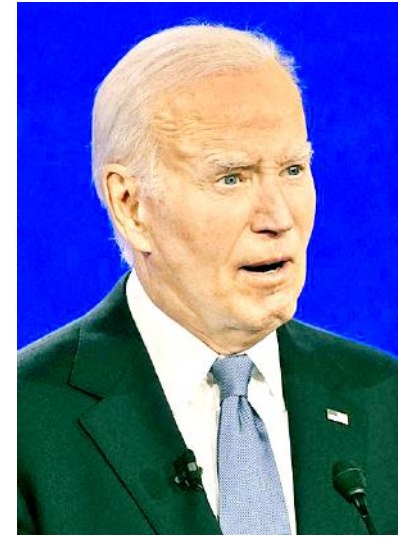


all the Orthodox public," said a young man, identifying himself only by his first name Ozer. "All the Orthodox public prefers to go to prison and not to the army." The ultra-Orthodox see their full-time religious study as their part in protecting the state. Many fear that greater contact with secular society through the military will distance adherents from strict observance of the faith. The Supreme Court this week ordered the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men, saying the system of exemptions is unequal. The decision could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netan-

anyahu's government. Ultra-Orthodox parties and their followers oppose any change in the system. The ultra-Orthodox make up roughly 13 per cent of Israel's population. But under the country's fragmented political system, they wield significant political power and often serve as political kingmakers. The parties are key members of Netanyahu's governing coalition and could potentially force new elections if they decide to leave the government. Ultra-Orthodox leaders have not yet said whether they will quit the government, but their followers have scheduled a large protest in Jerusalem on Sunday.

US opted out of Paris Accord as India, China weren't paying: Ex-Prez Trump

Atlanta, Jun 28 (The Capital News) Former US president Donald Trump has said his administration opted out of the landmark Paris Climate Accord in 2017 as it was a "rip-off" which would have cost Washington USD 1 trillion, as he claimed that India, China and Russia weren't paying for it. Trump, the presumptive candidate of the Republican Party, made the claims at the first of presidential debates with his Democratic Party rival President Joe Biden on Thursday, where the two 2024 presidential candidates sparred over the state of the economy, border, foreign policy, abortion, national security and climate change. During their roughly 90-minute debate marred by personal attacks, Trump, 78, claimed that the Paris Climate Accord would have cost USD 1 trillion and the US was the only country that had to pay. Calling it a "rip-off", he said that China, India and Russia weren't paying. In 2017, Trump pulled the US out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, saying the international deal to keep global temperatures rising below 2 degrees Celsius was disadvantageous to US workers. As part of the Paris Agreement, in 2009, the US and other developed nations committed to collectively contribute USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help poorer, developing countries, predominantly in the Global South, adapt to the impacts of climate change like sea level rise and worsening heat. According to a CNN report, developed nations met their collective goal two years late in 2022, but the figure has never been as high as Trump suggested. Contrary to what Trump said, the US has never paid USD 1



trillion in international climate finance, according to the report. The US paid nothing to the global finance goal after Trump pulled the country out of the Paris accord. President Biden has pledged USD 11.4 billion annually from the US, but this level of funding hasn't materialised, the report said. Trump, a known climate change sceptic, has continuously argued that countries like China and India are benefiting the most from the Paris Agreement. China is the world's biggest carbon emitter followed by the US, India and the EU.

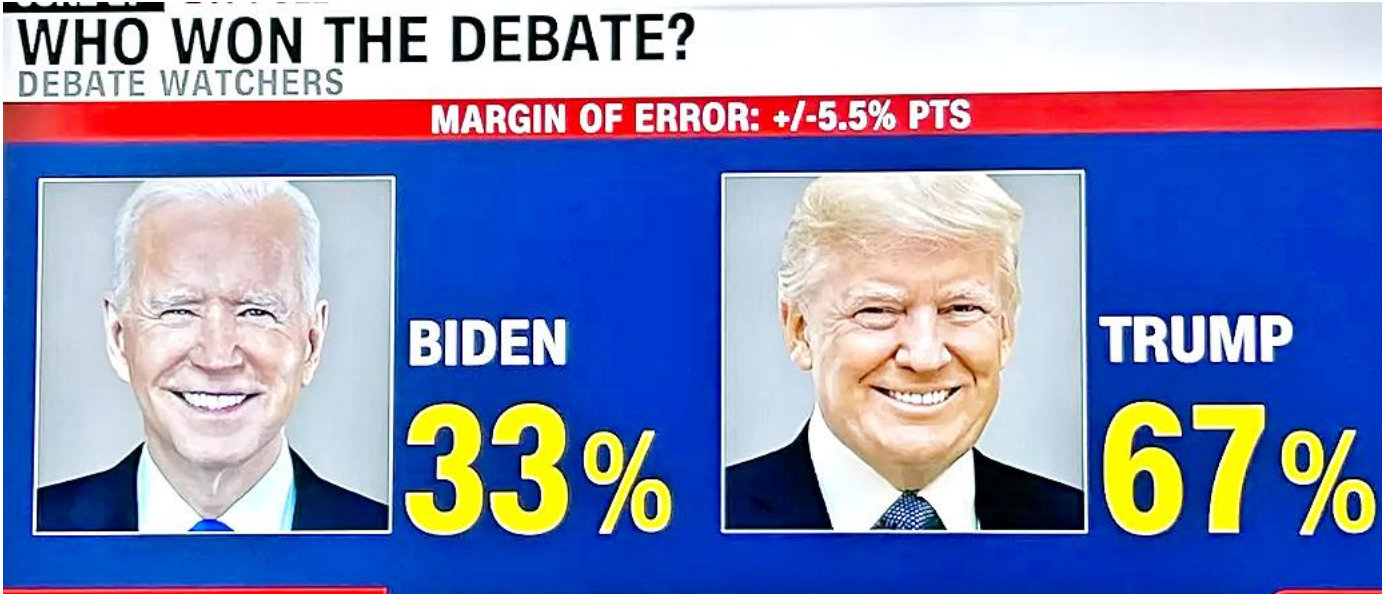


Ricky Gervais announces new tour 'Ricky Gervais: Mortality'

Los Angeles, Jun 28 (The Capital News) Actor-comedian Ricky Gervais has announced that he will be embarking on a new comedy tour, titled "Ricky Gervais: Mortality", later this year. According to entertainment news outlet Deadline, the tour will run through the end of 2025 and culminate in a new stand-up special for Netflix. Gervais' special for Netflix will be his fourth for the streaming service. His earlier collaborations with Netflix include "Humanity" (2018), "SuperNature" (2022) and "Armageddon" (2023). "We're all gonna die. May as well have a laugh about it. Mortality looks at the absurdities of life. And death. Bring it on," the comedian said in a statement. Gervais and Netflix have had a robust partnership together, as his last special, "Armageddon", won a Golden Globe. It also spent time at No 1 on Netflix's most-watched list and holds the world record for the highest-grossing comedy special of all time.

Majority of debate watchers say Trump won debate over Biden: CNN Poll

Atlanta, Jun 28 (The Capital News) Former US president Donald Trump turned in a better performance than President Joe Biden during the first of presidential debates, a shift from 2020 when debate watchers saw the 81-year-old Democrat as outperforming his Republican rival. During Thursday's feisty debate that lasted roughly 90 minutes, President Biden and 78-year-old Trump sparred over the economy, immigration, foreign policy, abortion and national security. Both the leaders called each other a liar and the worst president in the history of the US. Sixty-seven per cent to 33 per cent of the registered debate watchers said that Trump turned in a better performance, according to a CNN flash poll conducted by SSRS. CNN was the host of the first of the three presidential debates held in Atlanta. Before the debate, the same voters said, 55 per cent to 45 per cent, that they expected Trump to perform better than Biden. The poll's results reflect opinions of the debate only among those voters who tuned in and are not representative of the views of the full voting public — in their demographics, political preferences or the



level of attention they pay to politics. Debate watchers in the poll were 5 points likelier to be Republican-aligned than Democratic-aligned, making for an audience that was slightly more Republican-leaning than all registered voters nationally. But the results are a shift from 2020 when Biden was seen by debate watchers as outperforming Trump in their presidential debates, CNN reported. A 57 per cent majority of

debate watchers Thursday night said they have no real confidence in Biden's ability to lead the country, and 44 per cent that they have no real confidence in Trump's ability to do so. Those numbers are effectively unchanged from the poll taken before the debate, in which 55 per cent of those voters said they had no confidence in Biden and 47 per cent that they lacked confidence in Trump. Neither candidate scores

highly on this metric, but while just 36 per cent of debate watchers now say they have a lot of confidence in Trump's ability to lead the country, only 14 per cent say the same of Biden, the report said. The CNN poll was conducted by text message with 565 registered US voters who said they watched the debate Thursday, and the poll findings are representative of the views of debate watchers only, CNN emphasised.

Plan was to make it difficult for England without doing anything extraordinary: Axar

Georgetown (Guyana), Jun 28 (The Capital News) His exploits in the powerplay set up India's massive win over England and left-arm spinner Axar Patel said keeping things simple was the key as it helped him make life difficult for rival batters "without doing anything extraordinary". Coming in to bowl in the fourth over, Axar (3/23) removed England skipper Jos Buttler off his very first delivery before dismissing Jonny Bairstow and Moeen Ali in consecutive overs to derail England's chase as they eventually folded for 103 in pursuit of 172 in the T20 World Cup semifinals here on Thursday. "Obviously in powerplay, it is difficult (to bowl) but when you know that you are getting help from the wicket, then without thinking much, without doing anything extraordinary, I thought that the more I keep it simple, the easier it would be for me," Axar said during the post-match press conference. "We spoke in the dressing room that it's not an easy wicket (for batting), and I knew that the batsmen will charge at me. It wasn't going to be easy to hit me down the ground and also (they) couldn't hit off the back foot because the ball wasn't coming on the bat." So my plan was to make it difficult for them, force them to think of playing some other shots, and, that's what happened on the first ball. So that was the plan. "Axar sent his first ball from round the wicket and Buttler, looking for the reverse-sweep,



ended up lobbing it up for wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to do the rest. "I hadn't really planned to get a wicket on the first ball. My mindset was to put the ball in the right areas. Obviously, when you play knockouts, you want to start and finish well with the first and last ball," said Axar, who was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match. "I think it was difficult to hit big shots, to sweep and reverse sweep because some balls were keeping low on this wicket, so you can't connect it so easily." India scored 171 for 7 after being asked to take first strike and Axar said they were confident of defending the total. "I think 170 was a par score, we could defend it.

Rohit bhai said after he finished batting that it was very difficult to hit big shots because the odd ball was spinning, it was staying low and skidding as

well. "When we made 170, we knew that we had scored 10-15 runs extra, which we could have defended." Batting at number eight, Axar also hit a six during his 10-run cameo and he said it gave him an idea about the nature of the surface as the pacers were bowling slower balls in the death overs. "Obviously, I got a clue from that (batting) as to what I could do and what I couldn't. When I went to bat, everyone was bowling slower, the ball was not coming at the speed I wanted so I couldn't connect properly. So giving pace would have made it easy for them. It was important to hit the ball at a good area." It's also about pressure. When you are chasing, and you know that the wicket is helping the bowlers, as an opener, or anyone in the top four, they think of cashing in on the powerplay as much as possible but it didn't work out."

Javelin thrower DP Manu could be in dope net; NADA asks AFI to stop him from competing



Panchkula (Haryana), Jun 28 (The Capital News) Javelin thrower DP Manu has been asked to stay away from competitions by the Athletics Federation of India on the instructions of the National Anti-Doping Agency as the Olympic hopeful is suspected to have been caught in the dope net. The 24-year-old Manu, who won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Championships, was more or less certain to qualify for the Olympics through world ranking quota but is set to miss the Paris bus after the latest

development. He was in the initial entry list for the National Inter-State Championships which began on Thursday here. But his name has been dropped from the updated roster. AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told PTI that NADA has asked the federation to stop Manu from competitions but he did not confirm whether the athlete has committed a doping offence. "There could be something like that, but we still don't know what is the actual thing. There was a phone call to AFI office (from the NADA)

yesterday that he (Manu) be stopped from competitions," Sumariwalla said. "Otherwise there are no details (on what kind of possible violation). I think the athlete himself (DP Manu) is finding out from the NADA what is the exact thing." Manu finished second behind Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra with a throw of 82.06m in the Federation Cup from May 15 to 19 in Bhubaneswar. He later won gold in Taipei City on June 1 with a throw of 81.58m. Manu was 15th in the World Athletics Road to Paris list and on course to qualify for Paris Olympics as 32 athletes will compete in the men's javelin throw event. The qualification deadline is June 30. Chopra and Kishore Jena have already secured automatic qualification for the Olympics after breaching the entry standard of 85.50m. A country can have a maximum of three athletes in an Olympics track and field event.

Jason Day set to finally play Olympic golf for Australia at the Paris Games

Sydney, Jun 28 (The Capital News) Jason Day will finally make it to an Olympics while a brother-and-sister combination are two of the other three golfers set to play for Australia at the Paris Games. Day was ranked world No. 1 in 2016 when he decided not to play at the Rio Olympics, saying he was concerned about going to Brazil with the Zika virus spreading while his wife was pregnant. He said earlier this year that he regretted not going. "I had one of those spots, and at the time we were having kids, and then obviously there was that (Zika) scare, so I was kind of like a little bit freaked out about that," Day said at a PGA tournament in May. The Australian Olympic Committee said Friday that Min Woo Lee would join Day on the men's team while Minjee Lee and Hannah Green would form the



women's team. The two Lees are brother and sister. Minjee Lee will become the first Australian golfer to compete at three Olympics, Green returns for her second Games while Min Woo Lee will join Day in making his Olympic debut. The four players all qualified by virtue of their

International Golf Federation Olympic ranking at the end of a two-year ranking period. Green and Minjee Lee finished the period ranked seventh and 11th respectively, while Day and Min Woo are Australia's highest-ranked male golfers at 27th and 36th respectively. Green matched Australia's best Olympic golf finish with a tie for fifth at Tokyo 2020 and has won two LPGA Tour events this year. Minjee Lee has 10 career LPGA Tour wins including a major — the 2015 PGA Championship. Min Woo Lee is the reigning Australian PGA champion and achieved a career-best world ranking of 31st in 2024. The Olympic tournament will be played at Le Golf National at Guyancourt near Paris. The men compete from Aug. 1-4 and the women from Aug. 7-10.

Esther Anil Makes a Splash in Black Monokini!

Each season is upon us and Esther Anil is serving some serious summer vibes in her latest Instagram post! The rising star stuns in a sleek black one-shoulder cutout monokini that perfectly accentuates her toned legs. The daring swimsuit exudes confidence and oomph, making Esther a vision of poolside perfection. Adding a touch of whimsy, Esther playfully tucks a cute pink flower behind her ear, further amping up the summery charm. With a sensuous pose against a breathtaking beach backdrop, Esther is setting the internet ablaze. Fans are swooning over her look, showering her with compliments in the comments section. Looks like Esther is ready to take the summer style game by storm!



Nizam BO: Kalki Crosses RRR

Kalki 2898 AD is a recent film at the box office. Prabhas is starring in the lead role, and the film is directed by Nag Ashwin. Vyjayanthi Movies bankroll led the film. The film opened to a positive response from everyone. Now, we have an interesting update on the film's day one result in Nizam. Nizam is one area where in every film, a star hero would give good results to the producers and distributors. Prabhas has an established market already in Nizam area and his film has now crossed the numbers of RRR on a release day. The trade reports reveal that Kalki collected a revenue of 24 Cr rupees on the first day at the box office. Earlier, RRR generated 23.55 Cr rupees on the release day. Kalki crossed the number comfortably. Not just in Nizam, but the film is doing well in all other regions successfully. The team is happy with the film's performance on the release day and are hopeful of a strong and steady run at the box office across the nation.



Kalki Release: Suriya's Karna In Discussions



With Prabhas' new film Kalki trending on social media, there is another film that is also trending in the news. The Nag Ashwin directorial touched the mythology elements

so well and it is having a dream run at the box office. Meanwhile, Suriya's upcoming film is also in the news. Bollywood filmmaker Rakeysh Om Prakash Mehra, who planned a mythology project titled Karna, on Suriya in the lead role. With the release of Kalki, this upcoming project also garnered the limelight on social media. The project is being planned as a pan-India film with a budget of approximately 350 crore rupees. Excel Entertainment will be bankrolling the film and the pre-production works are already in progress. Already, the team finalized the film's cast. With Jahnvi Kapoor onboarding as Draupadi, the film also features Ali Fazal, Vijay Verma, Abinash Tiwari and others. The Indian filmmakers are bringing back the mythological genre and we have to see if Suriya will impress as Karna.