

PHOTO FEATURE

THE CAPITAL • VIJAYAWADA • SATURDAY • 29 JUNE 2024



Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visiting Kodagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple in Telangana on Saturday



Senior TDP leader Alla Gopalakrishna and other leaders congratulating TDP president Palla Srinivas Rao on Saturday



The farmers of Undavalli staged protest against the land polling plans of CRDA for seed access road continuation



Tirusnapana Tirumanjana Sena and free meals program at Bhakta Anjaneya swamy temple on Saturday



Electoral Officer BR Meena inspecting VV PATS and EVMs at store room in Vijayawada on Saturday



Maganti Satyanarayana Murthy and Madhu Rao donating gold coated copper ornaments to Durga temple officials

Iran seesawing vote results put race between reformist Masoud Pezeshkian and hard-liner Saeed Jalili

Dubai, Jun 29 (The Capital News) Seesawing results released early on Saturday in Iran's presidential election put the race between reformist Masoud Pezeshkian and hard-liner Saeed Jalili, with the lead trading between the two men while a runoff vote appeared likely. Iranian state television reported the results which did not initially put either man in a position to win Friday's election outright, potentially setting the stage for a second round of voting to replace the late hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi. It also did not offer any turnout figures for the race yet — a crucial component of whether Iran's electorate backs its Shiite theocracy after years of economic turmoil and mass protests. After counting over 19 million votes, Pezeshkian had 8.3 million while Jalili held 7.18 million. Another candidate, hard-line parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, had some 2.67 million votes. Shiite cleric Mostafa Pourmohammadi had over 158,000 votes. Voters faced a choice between the three hard-line candidates and the little-known reformist Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon. As has been the case since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women and those calling for radical change have



been barred from running, while the vote itself will have no oversight from internationally recognized monitors. The voting came as wider tensions have gripped the Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. In April, Iran launched its first-ever direct attack on Israel over the war in Gaza, while militia groups that Tehran arms in the region — such as the Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels — are engaged in the fighting and have escalated their attacks. Meanwhile, Iran continues to enrich uranium at near weapons-grade levels and maintains a stockpile large enough to build — should it choose to do so — several nuclear

weapons. There had been calls for a boycott, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi. Mir Hossein Mousavi, one of the leaders of the 2009 Green Movement protests who remains under house arrest, also has refused to vote along with his wife, his daughter said. There's also been criticism that Pezeshkian represents just another government-approved candidate. On a woman in a documentary on Pezeshkian aired by state TV said her generation was "moving toward the same level" of animosity with the government as Pezeshkian's generation had in the 1979 revolution. Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than

50% of all votes cast. If that doesn't happen, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later. There's been only one runoff presidential election in Iran's history: in 2005, when hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad bested former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The 63-year-old Raisi died in the May 19 helicopter crash that also killed the country's foreign minister and others. He was seen as a protégé of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a potential successor. Still, many knew him for his involvement in the mass executions that Iran conducted in 1988, and for his role in the bloody crackdowns on dissent that followed protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman detained by police over allegedly immodestly wearing the mandatory headscarf, or hijab. Despite the recent unrest, there was only one reported attack around the election. Gunmen opened fire on a van transporting ballot boxes in the restive southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan, killing two police officers and wounding others, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. The province regularly sees violence between security forces and the militant group Jaish al-Adl, as well as drug traffickers.

Research gives more reassurance that milk pasteurization kills bird flu, officials say

New York, Jun 29 (The Capital News)

A new study that recreated commercial pasteurization in a government lab provides reassurance that heat treatment kills bird flu virus in cow's milk, U.S. officials said Friday. When the bird flu known as H5N1 was first detected in U.S. dairy cows earlier this year, there were no studies of whether heat treatment killed the virus in cows' milk. But officials were comforted by studies that showed the pasteurization of eggs — which involves heating at a lower temperature and for a shorter amount of time — worked, said the Food and Drug Administration's Donald Prater. A study in April found that there was no evidence of infectious, live virus in store-bought samples of pasteurized milk, though they did contain dead remnants of it. Some later small studies that attempted to simulate pasteurization showed mixed results. The new study was done at a federal research center in Athens, Georgia, using custom equipment that tried to more completely recreate commercial pasteurization. It also allowed sampling at different stages in the process. The milk goes through several heating steps before being flash-heated, and the study found the virus was inactivated even before it hit the 161-degree, 15-or-more-second "flash pasteurization" stage that is considered the key step in making milk safe. "This information really fills an important gap in our understanding of how commercial pasteurization inactivates the virus," Prater said. The study has been not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.



US shifts assault ship to the Mediterranean to deter risk of Israel-Lebanon conflict escalating

Washington, Jun 28 (The Capital News)

The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp entered the eastern Mediterranean Sea this week as the US positions warships to try to keep fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon from escalating into a wider war in the Middle East. While the Wasp has the capability to assist in the evacuation of civilians if full-scale war breaks out between Israel and Hezbollah along the Lebanon border, that's not the primary reason it was rotated in, a US official said. "It's about deterrence," the official said. A second US official said the rotation is similar to how the US sent the USS Bataan assault ship into the waters around Israel shortly after Hamas' October 7 attack on the country, with the vessel remaining for months in the eastern Mediterranean to help provide options and try to contain the conflict. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive operational details. US European Command, which is responsible for ships operating in the Mediterranean, announced the move this week, saying the Wasp and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit



aboard would sail with the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill, which is used to transport Marines, landing craft, vehicles and cargo. The Oak Hill is already in the Mediterranean. The Wasp also is sailing with the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York, which can deliver troops either by on-deck helicopters or landing vessels. It all comes as the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group and Israel have exchanged near-daily cross-border strikes since the Oct. 7 attacks that launched the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, and they have been escalating gradually. The Israeli army said last week that it has "approved and validated" plans for an offensive in Lebanon, although any decision would come from the country's political lead-

ers. Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Sunday that any Israeli military offensive into Lebanon would risk an Iranian response in defense of Hezbollah, triggering a broader war that could put American forces in the region in danger. The U.S. military also has shifted other ships in the region. The Pentagon said the aircraft carrier Eisenhower, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is returning home after a deployment of more than eight months countering strikes from Yemen's Houthi rebels on commercial shipping in the Red Sea that the Navy says is its most intense mission since World War II. The San Diego-based USS Theodore Roosevelt will take the Eisenhower's place.

Sigourney Weaver to be feted with Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at Venice Film Fest

London, Jun 29 (The Capital News)

Hollywood veteran Sigourney Weaver will be honoured with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 2024 Venice Film Festival. Weaver, who has been a part of several blockbuster projects across her career including "Gorillas in the Mist" as well as franchises like "Ghostbusters", "Alien" and "Avatar", will receive the honour during the festival's 81st edition, which will be held from August 28 to September 7, said a press release posted on the official website of the festival. "I am truly honoured to receive the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the Biennale di Venezia. To be gifted this award is a privilege I share with all the filmmakers and collaborators I have worked with throughout the years," Weaver said. Alberto Barbera, the director of the Venice Film Festival, said as a movie star, Weaver has built bridges between the "most sophisticated art-house cinema and movies that engage with the public in a frank and original way, all the while remaining true to herself." As an authentic collaborator, rather than simply a malleable instrument in the



hands of a director, she has contributed to the success of movies by James Cameron, Paul Schrader, Peter Weir, Michael Apted, Roman Polanski, Ivan Reitman, Mike Nichols, Ang Lee, and many others, each time imposing the mark of a complex personality — at times contradictory but always authentic — onto her own charismatic presence. "Endowed with a remarkable temperament, able to move with delicacy yet without fragility,

she has created the image of a woman who is self-assured and determined, dynamic and resolute; at the same time, with endlessly different shadings, she allows her intensely magnetic, feminine sensitivity to filter through," he said. A three-time Oscar nominee, Weaver will be next seen in "Dust Bunny" alongside Mads Mikkelsen as well as "The Gorge" which also stars Miles Teller and Anya Taylor-Joy.



Pair of giant pandas from China arrive safely at San Diego Zoo

San Diego, Jun 28 (The Capital News)

Two giant pandas from China have safely arrived in Southern California, where they will be cared for as part of an ongoing conservation partnership, the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance said on Friday. The pandas, Yun Chuan and Xin Bao, will spend the next several weeks acclimating to their new home in a private habitat at the San Diego Zoo and will not be viewable by the public, the alliance said in a brief statement. "They are being monitored closely by expert wildlife health and care teams who will determine when the pair are ready to meet the public," the alliance said. A farewell ceremony was held earlier this week before the pandas departed from China. Yun Chuan, a mild-mannered male who's nearly 5 years old, has connections to California, the wildlife alliance said previously. His mother, Zhen Zhen, was born at the San Diego Zoo in 2007 to parents Bai Yun and Gao Gao. Xin Bao is a nearly 4-year-old female described as "a gentle and witty introvert with a sweet round face and big ears." The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has a nearly 30-year partnership with leading conservation institutions in China focused on protecting and recovering giant pandas and the bamboo forests they depend on.

Trump gloats over Biden's debate performance at a Virginia rally

Chesapeake (Virginia), Jun 29 (The Capital News)

Former President Donald Trump gloated Friday over President Joe Biden's often halting performance at the first debate ahead of the November election, saying Democrats have no better choices while calling the Democratic incumbent "the most incompetent president" in U.S. history. Trump spoke to thousands of supporters Friday at a rally in Chesapeake, Virginia, a day after Biden's disappointing performance sparked concerns among his allies and other Democrats who were hoping for a more vigorous candidate to secure and improve his chances at reelection. Biden repeatedly stumbled, paused and could not complete sentences, prompting some people to wonder whether they could replace him ahead of November. "The question every voter should be asking themselves today is not whether Joe Biden can survive a 90-minute debate performance, but whether America can survive four more years of crooked Joe Biden in the White House," Trump said. Trump repeated several of the false claims he made on Thursday, including about abortions later in pregnancy,



and again referred to rioters who have been charged with storming the Capitol to try to overturn his 2020 loss as "hostages." He applauded a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that came out earlier on Friday, limiting a federal obstruction law that has been used to charge Trump and hundreds of Capitol riot defendants. And he called for their release. "Free the J6 hostages now. They should free them now for what at they've gone through," he said, adding that the ruling "was a great thing for people that have been so horribly treated." Trump has long suggested the people charged in the riot have been unfairly prosecuted and continues to promote lies and unproven theories about voter fraud. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin appeared alongside Trump on Friday, saying he was going to work to secure a Trump victory in a state Biden won in 2020. The Republican governor, who was once a favorite potential presidential candidate for anti-Trump Republicans, notably waited during this year's primary and only endorsed Trump in March. "This is about strength versus weakness," Youngkin told Trump supporters. "We have seen the weak America that Joe Biden has created, and we all lived through the strong America that Donald Trump built." Trump said he did not think Biden could drop out of the race, mentioning

the demands from some Democrats and opinion writers calling for Biden to step aside. He then criticized other high-profile Democrats such as California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Vice President Kamala Harris and former first lady Michelle Obama. Trump said he would be very happy going against Harris, who is Biden's running mate. Harris can't just swap in for him at the top of the ticket by default should Biden decide to step aside. Individual state delegations would need to be lobbied to replace Biden ahead of a virtual roll call where the party intends to nominate Biden. The exact date for the roll call has not yet been set. There is no evidence Biden is willing to end his campaign. And it would be nearly impossible for Democrats to replace him unless he chooses to step aside. Christopher James Caton, 49, of Virginia Beach left his home at 4:30 a.m. to see Trump speak on Friday. "Trump was unbelievable," Caton, wearing a Second Amendment ball cap, said of Thursday night's debate. "He was on fire. He was steady. He didn't stutter." Even Democrats have to admit that Biden performed poorly, Caton said.

SPORTS - MOVIES

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There's genuine hunger to win and we can win from any situation: Markram

Bridgetown (Barbados), Jun 28 (The Capital News) Not known for handling pressure well on the big stage, South Africa have pulled off close wins in this competition giving them a strong belief that victory is possible from any situation, captain Aiden Markram said ahead of the T20 World Cup final against India here. In India, a team full of superstars, will have to overcome the pressure of not winning an ICC title since 2013 while South Africa head into their maiden World Cup final having not been in that position ever before. Ahead of the summit showdown on Saturday, Markram was expectedly reminded about the past when Proteas have crumbled under pressure. "Probably I just see it as a new game of cricket, to be honest. We all know India's a great team. Us as a team, as South Africans, have been sort of trending in the right direction the last couple of years, but maybe not progressed in tournaments as far as we would have liked. "So, an exciting occasion tomorrow against a good opposition in India, but a nice opportunity for us as the Proteas as well," said Markram. Both South Africa and India go into the final unbeaten with the former experiencing plenty of bumps along the way. They barely managed to put it past Nepal and Bangladesh earlier in the competition. Even the low-scoring affair against co-hosts West Indies could have gone either way. Markram said his players have got a lot of confidence out of those close wins and they won't settle for a runners-up finish. "There have been close moments in games that would



have probably affected the result and we managed to win those moments." To have done them two, three, maybe four times throughout the competition so far has sort of given them the belief that you can win from any position, which I think is quite important for a team to have that," said Markram. India might be overwhelming favourites for the title but South Africa too have a lot going for them. They are keen to add a fresh chapter to the nation's chequered history but the schedule has not given them time to think too much about the occasion. "You play a game, you get on a plane, you fly, you check in at a new hotel and play your next game of cricket the next day. So, I don't think there's too much reflecting that happens. "But it's more the opportunity that we have of being in a final that sort of excites me quite a bit I think after the competition we will sit back and really appreciate what we've achieved so far as a team," he said. Markram asserted that irrespective of the result on Saturday, his team is "going in the right direction." "But yeah, we'd love to get to our first final and be able to

win that first final. And hopefully in the years to come that can break the burden of what a lot of other people are saying about us as a team," he said. On the seven-hour delay they experienced in Trinidad due to the closure of runway in Barbados, Markram chose to look at the positives. "Yeah, we've had a couple (in Florida as well). I suppose a lot of other teams have gone through similar things. And we joke about it as a team and say, like, we're kind of used to it now." There's no point sulking around and making it more miserable than what it might already seem to be. So, it was a slightly longer day yesterday (laughs). "On the mindset of the team after the semi-final win over Afghanistan, Markram added: "...you say, 'guys, we've still got one more step to go'. So, it's not driven by coach or by captain. The whole unit sort of feels that and is driven by that." "...sportsmen are highly competitive people and nobody would want to lose, and especially not lose in a final. So, I think there's no sense that the guys are satisfied regardless of the result tomorrow. I think there's still a massive hunger for us to go out and win tomorrow's game."

Praggnanandhaa let's Gukesh off the hook on a day of draws



Bucharest (Romania), Jun 29 (The Capital News) Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa missed out on becoming a joint leader at the Superbet Classic chess tournament after settling for a draw against compatriot D Gukesh in the third round here. After losing to Gukesh in the last Candidates tournament in April earlier this year, Praggnanandhaa had a great opportunity to equalise the score this year but could not find a winning continuation after Gukesh spoiled a drawn endgame. The Catalan opening saw Gukesh sacrificing a pawn early and Praggnanandhaa had his share of counterplay on the Queen side. As things unfolded, Gukesh recovered the pawn with an optical advantage with his Knight against a slightly bad Bishop of Praggnanandhaa. With the intricacies of the middle game over, Gukesh decided to part with a pawn and reached a Queen and rook en

dgame that should have been an easy draw but a blunder on his 53rd move saw a forced liquidation leading to a King and pawns endgame. On another day, Praggnanandhaa may have found the winning continuation to become a joint leader but luck smiled on Gukesh and the game was drawn a few moves later. For the first time in three days, all the five games in the ten-player double round-robin tournament ended in draws. The other player coming close to a win was Maxime Vachier-Lagrave who almost pulled it off against his French teammate Alireza Firouzja. It was a Berlin defense game wherein Firouzja won the opening battle for the third day running getting a balanced position easily as black. However, a late error in the queen-less middle game, saw Vachier-Lagrave seize the initiative and it should have been a win that slipped out of hands for

the older Frenchman. With all games ending in draws, the lead positions remained unchanged and Gukesh continued to be at the top of the tables along with Fabiano Caruana of United States who drew a keenly contested game against Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. With both leaders on two points, Vachier-Lagrave, Praggnanandhaa, Alireza, Wesley So, Giri and Nepomniachtchi share the third spot on 1.5 points apiece. Another half point behind is Abdusattorov and Bogdan Daniel with six rounds still remaining in the USD 350000 prize money tournament. Dutchman Anish Giri played out an easy draw on his 30th birthday against Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi with both players giving nothing away and this was also the first game to end in the day. Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania played out his second draw in the tournament holding off a slightly worse endgame for more than a couple hours against Wesley So of United States. Results round 3: D Gukesh (Ind, 2) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 1.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5) drew with Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 1.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID, 1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2); Wesley So (Usa, 1.5) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rom, 1).

Sports Minister lends support to IOA's plea to include yoga in Asian Games

New Delhi: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has welcomed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha's move to get yoga included in the Asian Games programme. "It is only fair that in keeping with its wide popularity, yoga becomes a competitive sport and is in the Asian Games," Mandaviya said in a statement. The IOA president had written to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) acting chief Randhir Singh on June 26 to consider the proposal of including yoga as a sport in the Asian Games. "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has worked hard to ensure that June 21 is

celebrated as International Yoga Day each year. The discipline, which embraces mind and body, has gained in popularity around the world and is ready as a competitive sport with its own code of points and distinct events," Mandaviya said. "India has been in the forefront of making yoga popular and we started it as a competitive sport by including it in the Khelo India Youth Games with great success. It is pleasing to note that growing number of yoga practitioners has encouraged organisers of National Games to include it in their schedule." The Government of India, through its different initiatives, has promoted yoga as a

competitive sport as well along with it being an art and science of healthy living. The Sports Ministry has granted recognition to Yogasana Bharat for promotion and development of Yogasana as a competitive sport in India. Additionally, Yogasana has been added as a competitive discipline over the last many editions of Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games since 2020. It is also learnt that Asian Yogasana, recognised body by World Yogasana, has already written to OCA for affiliation so that Yogasana can be developed as a competitive sport across the continent.



Selfie Sizzler! Sonal's Hourglass in Fiery Red

Sonal Chauhan just raised the temperature on Instagram with her latest fiery hot pictures! The actress looks absolutely ravishing in a red see-through dress that hugs her curves perfectly. The body ruching detail accentuates her hourglass figure, leaving fans speechless. Styled with a bold confidence, Sonal winks at the camera in a selfie, sending the internet into a meltdown. Her look is complete with chic gold statement earrings, adding a touch of glam. This is a whole new level of hotness for Sonal, and we're totally here for it! We can't wait to see what she does next, but one thing's for sure, she's definitely setting some major style goals. [tunesharemore_vert](#)

Bachhala Malli: Allari Naresh's Birthday SPL Loading

Allari Naresh's new-age action entertainer Bachhala Malli is fast progressing with its shoot. As the production works are nearing completion, the makers recently kick-started the promotions by dropping the first look. Allari Naresh underwent a remarkable transformation to play a powerful character as Bachhala Malli. The latest update is that Allari Naresh's birthday special glimpse is loading. The makers will unveil the glimpse tomorrow at 9 AM. Allari Naresh looks ruthless in the poster with seriousness in his eyes. He appears in a rustic look with messy hair and a thick beard. Director Subbu Mangadevi who chose a soft subject for his first movie seems to have penned a powerful script for his second movie. The poster raises the curiosity for the glimpse. Razesha Danada and Balaji Gutta are bankrolling the movie under the banner of Hasya Movies. The film which is set in 1990 has Amritha Aiyer playing the female lead. Vishal Chandrasekhar scores the music, while Richard M Nathan cranks the camera.



Bharateeyudu, Oke Okkadu & Sivaji In One Film



Shankar is one of the top class filmmakers in South cinema. The director is currently busy with the works of Indian 2 and then, he is also working on Ram Charan's Gamechanger. The

film's promotions are currently in progress and Shankar has opened up on an interesting aspect recently. During the promotions, Shankar mentioned that he wanted to create Shankar Cinematic Universe. He got this thought way back in 2008. Talking about the same, Shankar said, "During 2008, I had thought of Making the lead characters of INDIAN (Bharateeyudu) & MUDHALVAN (Oke Okkadu) & SHIVAJI together in a single film, creating SHANKAR CINEMATIC UNIVERSE. I didn't get a response when I told this idea to my assistants, and hence I dropped it." Shankar also mentioned that he keeps getting a lot of thoughts and ideas which he transfers them to his assistants or family members to seek feedback from them. Bharateeyudu 2 is going to