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Afghan vice-presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh injured in blast

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Verstappen wins German GP, Vettel goes from 20th to second

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Joyride turns tragic, two killed in accident

NEW DELHI
Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were killed and three suffered serious injuries when their speeding car hit an electric pole in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Sunday. The victims were out on a joyride after a birthday celebration, the police said. An eyewitness said the impact of the collision was such that the vehicle smashed the grills on the divider and broke a pole.

CITY PAGE 3

Religious functions on roads banned in Aligarh

ALIGARH
The Aligarh administration has put a blanket ban on holding of religious functions on roads. The decision came after some Hindutva groups planned the recital of Hanuman Chalisa to protest against the offering of namaz on roads. The administration has taken this step as a precautionary measure to prevent any disturbance, an official said on Sunday.

NORTH & EAST PAGE 5

Now and Then

Ashok Kumar (69) was key to India lifting the men's hockey World Cup back in 1975. Ashok talks to us about hockey and his other loves.

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EDUCATIONPLUS PAGE 4

Karnataka Speaker disqualifies 14 more MLAs before trust vote

Rebels camping in Maharashtra say they will approach the Supreme Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ahead of the trust vote to be moved by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday, Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar disqualified 14 rebel MLAs on Sunday, taking the total number of disqualified MLAs to 17 in the last four days.

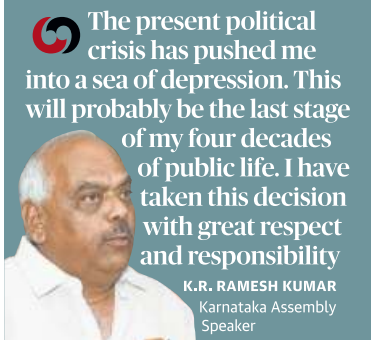
Now, the effective strength of the 225-member House stands at 208 – which gives an edge to the BJP (105 + 1 Independent) that has a numerical strength of 106 members.

Abstained from session

At a press conference, Mr. Ramesh Kumar announced the disqualification of 11 Congress rebels and 3 Janata Dal (Secular) legislators – all of

House of cards

Of the 225 MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly, 17 were disqualified so far, bringing down the simple majority mark to 105



whom abstained from the session during which former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy lost the trust vote – with immediate effect and

til the end of the term of the 15th Assembly.

Their disqualification, he said, is based on four petitions – three by the Congress

and one by the JD(S) – filed before him. The disqualified legislators, camping in a resort in Maharashtra, announced that they would move the Supreme Court.

Acting on two petitions filed by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Speaker disqualified Prathapgouda Patil (Maski), B.C. Patil (Hirekerur), A. Shivaram Hebbur (Yellapur), S.T. Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur), B.A. Basavaraj (K.R. Puram), B.S. Anand Singh (Vijayanagara, Ballari), R. Roshan Baig (Shivajinagar), Muniratna (Rajarajeshwari Nagar) and N. Nagaraju (Hosakote).

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SMOOTH SAILING PAGE 8

Govt. must convince industry of RCEP's benefits: Australia

Envoy bats for agreement after India Inc. raised concerns

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Australia is leading diplomats from various countries involved in the negotiations for the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement to convince India to commit to the deal by the end of the year. According to High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu, while there is “political will” that goes “right to the top” within the Indian government to go ahead with the FTA, the government’s task is to ensure Indian industry will support the decision.

“The task at hand, which I am sure the Indian government is doing, is to explain that what the RCEP will do for them is to open the door



Harinder Sidhu • V.V. KRISHNAN

to multiple markets in one fell swoop,” Ms. Sidhu said in an interview to *The Hindu*, ahead of the RCEP ministerial talks in Beijing on August 2-3. Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the talks.

A team of Indian trade negotiators are in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, until July 31

for talks on concluding “substantial outcomes” by November 1, when the RCEP summit will be held.

Over the past week, Mr. Goyal has held a series of consultations with various industry members, most of whom are ranged heavily against the deal. They expressed serious concerns, including worries over the flooding of the market with Chinese goods, and the lack of access for Indian services in the RCEP countries, which include the 10-nation ASEAN and its five FTA partners – India, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan)

INDUSTRY STILL CAUTIOUS ON RCEP TRADE DEAL PAGE 13

Naga register will shield State from outsiders, says Dy. CM

‘We are consulting civil groups and NSCN(IM)’

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Nagaland’s Deputy Chief Minister Yanhango Patton has defended the government’s decision to compile a register of indigenous Naga inhabitants, arguing that it will help to safeguard the State from outsiders.

Mr. Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, told *The Hindu*, “The Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) may take more time; we are consulting all civil society groups, including the National Socialist Coun-



Yanhango Patton • SANDEEP SAXENA

cil of Nagaland (Isak-Mui-vah). It can be delayed by a few months.”

In June, the State decided to compile a register to prevent issuance of indigenous inhabitant certificates to ineligible persons. The June 29 notification set December 1,

1963 – the day Nagaland gained Statehood – as the cut-off date.

Mr. Patton said there is a rethink on the cut-off date too: there has been a demand from a section that the date be April 28, 1977.

According to the 1977 notification, the indigenous inhabitant certificate should be issued to only those who had settled in Nagaland or had bought a property before 1963.

“Some are saying that the cut-off date should be 1963 or 1977, we have not decided anything but are contemplating on the date too. There is nothing wrong in compiling the list,” said Mr. Patton.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Congress questions Centre’s airport privatisation process

Why was Adani group given five airports, asks party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday attacked the Union government over its airport privatisation process and alleged that the Adani group was being favoured in the entire exercise.

The party made the charge after *The Hindu* reported on how the government had ignored the key recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the Finance Ministry that suggested a cap on the number of airports to be handed over to a single company and consideration of their prior experience in handling airport operations.

“There are 123 airports in the country operational today, and of these, only 14 are making profits. All the other airports are incurring a loss. Out of these 14 airports, five have been given to the Adani group,” Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said at a press conference.

The highest bidder

After a bidding process conducted by the Airports Authority of India, Adani Enterprises Limited emerged as the highest bidder.

Mr. Khara said that though the Adani group might have emerged as the highest bidder in the tender-

ing process, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Finance Ministry had recommended a cap.

“During the UPA regime, one company, GMR, had qualified for both Delhi and Mumbai, but it was decided that one group will not be given more than one airport. Here too, the DEA had suggested that no company be given more than two airports,” he said.

“The recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the DEA were set aside. We want to know why,” he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Jaipal Reddy passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Sudini Jaipal Reddy, 77, known for his oratorical skills and forthright views, passed away here early on Sunday following a brief illness. He is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons. Mr. Reddy was under treatment for pneumonia at a private hospital.

INDIRA GANDHI'S FEARLESS RIVAL IN MEDAK PAGE 12

U.P. rape survivor injured in accident

‘Conspiracy to eliminate witnesses, family’

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The survivor of the Unnao gang rape in which BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, now jailed, is an accused was seriously injured on Sunday after a truck hit the car she was travelling in with her relatives and lawyer.

The rape survivor, her two aunts and their lawyer Mahendra Singh were in the car, when it met with the accident in Raebareli district.

Taken to Lucknow

The aunts succumbed to their injuries, while the rape survivor and her lawyer were rushed to the Trauma Centre at KGMU in Lucknow.

The four were travelling to Raebareli jail from Unnao to meet the rape survivor’s uncle, who is serving imprisonment in a separate case, when the accident happened near Gurbakshganj police station around 1 p.m. The two deceased are the wife of the jailed uncle and her (wife’s) sister.

Raebareli Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Singh said according to eyewitnesses and local villagers, an ‘overspeeding truck’ hit the car as it ‘lost control’. It was raining at that time, the officer said.

The truck which collided with the car, while driving on the wrong side of the road, had its number plate smeared with black paint,

fuelling suspicion.

The rape survivor’s sister suspected foul play and alleged that the accident was a ‘conspiracy’ to eliminate the witnesses and family. She demanded a CBI probe into the accident, calling it murder.

“It’s a conspiracy. A man is sitting inside jail and gets such things done. The administration is not doing anything,” she told *The Hindu* over phone.

She alleged that Mr. Sengar, an MLA from Bangermau in Unnao, was trying to eliminate the witnesses so that “there is nobody left to run around for the case

Out of danger

Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh said the rape survivor and the lawyer were out of danger. He said the accident did not appear like a “case of conspiracy or intent to murder” but a probe was on. The truck was seized and its driver arrested, Mr. Singh said.

The security guards allotted to the victim were not travelling with the family. Mr. Singh said nine security guards were providing protection to the family.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said there was room for suspicion of murder in the case and demanded a CBI probe. “There is jungle raj in U.P.,” he said, in a statement released by party chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary.

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Enhancement of the security grid and fresh orders to local officers continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

While top government officials termed the measures “a routine contingency augmentation to counter any rise in militant attacks”, regional parties, including the National Conference

and the Peoples Democratic Party, termed the measures a hint at “tinkering with its [the State’s] special status”.

DETAILS ON PAGE 12