



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
Minimum : 15°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 43% Tomorrow 05:20 AM



News Digest

Burglars' Strike Srinagar Shrine

Srinagar: Unknown burglars struck a revered shrine in Old City of Srinagar and decamped with cash, triggering outrage among the people, reports said Saturday. According to the reports, the locals were taken by shock when they found cash from a chest located in the lawns of the shrine of Mir Shamsuddin Iraqi (RA) at Zadibal looted by burglars. "We are really concerned over such incidents and demand stern punishment for the culprits," said a local. A police official from Zadibal Police Station said that a case has been registered and efforts are on to nab the culprits.

3 LeT Workers Held In Sopore

Srinagar: Police on Saturday arrested three alleged workers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during a search operation in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Shabir Ahmad Mir and Muhammad Abbas Mir of Brath Kalan and Fahim Nabhat of Tarzoo Sopore were arrested by the joint team of army, police and CRPF during search operations at Bomai and Tarzoo areas, reports said. One Pistol, two magazines and 73 rounds and one UBGL launcher was claimed to have been recovered from their possession. Police said that a case was also registered in Police Station Sopore. (KNO)

3 Abducted Girls Rescued In Poonch

Jammu: Three abducted girls, including two minors, were rescued in separate operations in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Three accused were arrested during the operations carried out by Surankote Police in the district, they said. While two of the girls were abducted nearly a week ago, the third was kidnapped on January 26, the police said. It said the rescued girls were handed over to their families after completion of legal formalities, the police said.

Senior Health Officer Suspended

Srinagar: Director Health Services Kashmir on Saturday placed under suspension incharge Medical Superintendent Sub District hospital Bijbehara, Dr.Shaukat Hussain Parray, following a report by an inquiry committee against him. "In view of the report submitted by the enquiry Committee which was constituted by this office, Dr.Shaukat Hussain Parray I/C Medical Superintendent SDH Bijbehara is hereby attached with the office of CMO Anantnag with immediate effect till" ●P-02

Newborn Found In Chadura Orchard

Srinagar: A day-old baby boy on Saturday was found abandoned in an orchard in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. The locals found a new born baby abandoned in the apple orchards of village Bonen of Chadura town, reports said. "The baby was wrapped in a cloth. We took him to village and handed him over to Sarpanch of the village, namely Nazir Ahmad," said locals. Police have booked a case against unknown persons and set investigation into motion. "We are checking with" ●P-02

Militant Killed In Ongoing Kulgam Encounter



State Forces on the encounter spot in Lakadpora village of Kulgam on Saturday. Pic, Shah Junaid

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: An unidentified militant on Saturday was killed in ongoing encounter with state forces

in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, a day after eight militants were killed in twin gunfights in the neighbouring Shopian and Pulwama districts on Friday. ●PAGE 02

World In 'New & Dangerous Phase' Of Pandemic:

WHO

GENEVA: The World Health Organization warned Friday of a "new and dangerous phase" of the coronavirus pandemic with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease's accelerating spread.

The warning came as it emerged the virus was present in Italy in December, months before its first confirmed cases and about the same time as the disease was first reported in China.

The virus, which has now killed more than 454,000 people and infected 8.4 million



people worldwide, is surging in the Americas and parts of Asia even as Europe starts to ease restrictive measures.

Lockdowns have been to halt the spread of the disease have caused crippling economic damage, but the WHO said the pandemic still posed a major threat. "The world is in a new and dangerous phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home... but the virus is still spreading fast," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference. ●PAGE 02

DAK Seeks Audit Of COVID-19 Deaths

SRINAGAR: Following the continuous spike in Covid-19 deaths, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Saturday demanded Audit Committee for the deaths saying that people across J&K are confused about who died due to the coronavirus pandemic.

President DAK, Dr Suhail Naik in a statement issued here said it is very important that every death should be discussed by a committee to know what was underlying cause of death (UCOD), immediate cause of death, and factors leading to the immediate cause, and co-morbidities.

"There is lot of confusion among people that how bucketing of deceased is" ●PAGE 02

Kargil Councillor Held For Mocking PM In Audio Clip

Press Trust Of India

LEH: A Kargil political activist was arrested early on Saturday after an audio clip surfaced on social media mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Army in the wake of ongoing face-off between India and China.

The action against Zakir Hussain, councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) from Shakar constituency, followed registration of an FIR against him by police on Friday even as the councillor submitted a public apology over his remarks, the officials said.

Hussain, a long time Congress activist, was expelled by the par-

ty on the issue, while both LAHDC Leh and Kargil said the entire population of Ladakh has been patriotic and always fully behind the Army in protecting the country's sovereignty.

In the audio clip, the councillor is heard using highly derogatory language against the Prime Minister and mocking the Army over the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh which left 20 soldiers including an colonel-rank officer dead.

Tendering his apology for hurting the sentiments of the people by his words, Hussain said, As a Ladakhi and as an Indian, I have always been proud of my country and our people and I can assure that I will never do such" ●PAGE 02

China Lays Claim To Galwan Valley

In An Official Statement On The Step-By-Step Account Of The Galwan Face-Off, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Claimed Galwan Valley Is Located On The Chinese Side Of The LAC

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said there were no foreign incursions into Ladakh, China once again claimed that the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

In an official statement on the step-by-step account of the Galwan face-off where 20 Indian soldiers were killed, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the LAC in the west section of the China-India boundary.

In the first Tweet, Zhao claimed that the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in the west section of the China-India boundary. For many years, he said the Chinese border troops have been patrolling and on duty in this region.

"Since April, the Indian border troops have unilaterally and continuously built roads, bridges and other facilities at the LAC in Galwan Valley. China lodged representations and protests on multiple occasions but India went even further to cross the LAC and made provocations," Zhao said in his second Tweet.

In another Tweet, the spokesperson alleged, "On May 6, Indian border troops crossed LAC, trespassed into China's territory, built fortification & barricades, which impeded the patrol of Chinese border troops. They deliberately made provocations in an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo of control & management,"

Zhao said that the Chinese border troops were compelled to take necessary measures to respond to the situation on the ground and strengthen management & control in the border areas. "To ease the situation, China and India stayed in close communication through military and diplomatic channels,"

SHOCKINGLY, ON THE EVENING OF June 15, India's front-line troops, in violation of the agreement reached at the commander-level meeting, once again crossed the Line of Actual Control for deliberate provocation when the situation in the Galwan Valley was already easing,"



he said.

In the following Tweet, he added that in response to the strong demand of the Chinese side, India agreed to withdraw the personnel who crossed the LAC and demolish the facilities, and so they did.

Referring to the high-level army commanders meet on June 6, Zhao said that India promised it would not cross the estuary of Galwan river to patrol & build facilities. He said that the two sides would discuss & decide phased withdrawal of troops by officials on the ground. "Shockingly, on the evening of June 15, India's front-line troops, in violation of the agreement reached at the commander-level meeting, once again crossed the Line of Actual Control for deliberate provocation when the situation in the Galwan Valley was already easing," he claimed.

In his last Tweet, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson alleged, "India's front-line troops even violently attacked the Chinese officers and soldiers who went there for negotiation, thus triggering fierce physical conflicts and causing casualties. This is the step-by-step account of the Galwan clash". Zhao's reaction comes ●PAGE 02

LoC Flares Up In Uri, 5 Civilians Injured

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: At least five people, including a minor on Saturday were injured in Uri sector of Baramulla district as India and Pakistan continued to trade gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The exchange of fire between India and Pakistan troops started around 10am Saturday along the LoC in Hajipoor sector and continued for several hours, villagers told Kashmir Observer over phone. The cross-LoC shelling, they said created panic in Nambra, Mothal, Hathlanga and other villages prompting people to stay indoors.

"In the afternoon, cross-LoC

Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles Rajouri

Army on Saturday accused Pakistan troops of violating ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops on Saturday shelled mortars along the LoC in Rajouri, drawing a strong retaliation by the Indian Army, a defence spokesperson said. ●P-02

shelling intensified. Shells exploded in Nabla village injuring five people and damaging several houses." Sarpanch Charduna, Lal Din Khatana told Kashmir Observer. All the five people, he ●PAGE 02

Pak Drone Shot Down Along IB: BSF

A Pakistani drone, loaded with a sophisticated rifle and some grenades, was shot down by the Border Security Force along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. This is the first such incident in Jammu region when a drone carrying arms ●P-02

es." Sarpanch Charduna, Lal Din Khatana told Kashmir Observer. All the five people, he ●PAGE 02

5 More Die Of Covid-19, Toll Jumps To 80 In J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Five more COVID-19 patients died in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the number of fatalities due to the virus in the Union Territory to 80, officials said on Saturday.

A 55-year-old coronavirus positive woman from Tujan area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district died at SKIMS hospital at 6:45 am on Saturday, the officials said.

The patient was referred from SMHS as a case of meningioma with obstructive sleep apnea on Tuesday, they said.

They said the cause of the death was cardiopulmonary arrest.

A 40-year-old woman from Safa Kadal area of the city here passed

15 Paramilitary Men, 5 Cops Among 154 Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported 154 new cases of Covid-19, including 15 paramilitary personnel and five cops, raising the number of people infected by the deadly disease to 5834 in the Union Territory.

"154 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. ●P-02

away at Chest Diseases hospital on Saturday, the officials said.

The woman with underlying heart ailment and diabetes was referred to the facility from SMHS hospital on June 14 after testing positive for the coronavirus, they said.

An 80-year-old man from Shopian who had tested positive for CO-

VID-19 died at SMHS hospital on late Friday night, the officials said.

The fourth fatality was of a 65-year-old man from Budgam who passed away at SKIMS, they said.

The patient was admitted to the hospital on Friday with bilateral community acquired pneumonia, the officials added. The patient's sample ●PAGE 02

Nepal Lays Claim Over Bihar Land, Prevents Work



PATNA: Amid escalating border dispute between India and China in Ladakh's Galwan Valley, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), yet another India neighbour, Nepal, has sought to stop the Bihar Government from carrying out embankment-related work on the border, claiming the area as part of its territory.

This comes barely two days after the Upper House of Nepal's parliament approved a new political map for the country, including the land controlled by India. In the new map, Indian territories such as Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in the state of Uttarakhand in India have been shown as part of Nepalese territory — a move that has been strongly rejected by India, saying it was not based on historical facts or evidence.

Bihar shares a 729km-long international border with Nepal.

Officials from the Water Resources Department (WRD) were surprised when Nepalese authorities prevented them from carrying out fortification of an embankment on Lal Bakiy River in the Dhaka block of east Champaran district in Bihar. The area now being claimed by Nepal is some 45km from Motihari town, headquarters of the east Champaran district.

Fortification work

Authorities said the WRD of Government of Bihar had constructed the embankment long back over the river, which originates from the Himalayan region of Nepal, and had been carrying out fortification work every year ahead of the monsoon, but they ●PAGE 02

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE

has also apprised the Geological Survey of India of the entire situation, urging the latter to resolve the dispute at the earliest so that the pending embankment work can be completed soon.

Finding Ways To Reopen Schools: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that the stakeholders have shown reluctance in reopening the educational institutions across the Union Territory amid the prevalent situation but the administration is finding ways to reopen the schools at earliest.

"All the stakeholders including parents, teachers, community Sarpanchs and Media showed reluctance in reopening the schools," Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Kewal Kumar Sharma said, adding "In Kashmir, the issue of reopening of schools was a matter of concern.

Sharma said that the reopening of schools in Kashmir division is the matter of concern for the government as the academic year is in the middle of the session, adding, "There is an urgency of reopening of" ●PAGE 02

Govt Identifies 67 Spots In Valley To Open Liquor Stores

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the first time after the outbreak of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has identified 183 places, including 67 spots in the Valley for opening up liquor outlets at a massive scale.

In an official communication sent to the Financial Commissioner, Finance department, Civil Secretariat, Excise commissioner J&K Rajesh Kumar Sharma says that his department has divided the J&K UT area into 27 zones. He further writes in the letter that as per the survey conducted and in exercise of the powers under rule 28 of J&K Liquor and License rules, 1984 and section 4 (B) of the excise Act, a total list of 183



locations including 116 in Jammu and 67 in the zones of Kashmir have been identified. The list of the places is enclosed with the official letter.

"It is request that the necessary approval may kindly be granted enabling to proceed further strictly under the rules by way of any transparent method, either e-auctioning zone wise or location wise as the government deems fit as a matter of policy," the letter reads. ●PAGE 02