



Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 16°C
Humidity : 56%

SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:22 AM



News Digest

Hizb Militant, 12 Others Chargesheeted

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a charge sheet against top Hizbul Mujahideen militant Jahangir Saroori, his two close associates and 10 over ground workers (OGWs) in Kishtwar district. The charge sheet was filed in the court of 3rd Additional District and Session Judge TADA/POTA Jammu in a case registered at police station Dachan early this year under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act, a police spokesman said. Besides Saroori, two other active militants named in the chargesheet are Mudassar Hussain of Dachhan and Riaz Ahmad of Marwah, he said, adding the 10 OGWs were charged. **● P-02**

Another Quake Jolts Ladakh

SRINAGAR: An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the Richter scale hit 332 km Northeast of Hanle in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the tremors were felt in the area at 12:32 hours (IST) today. Earlier on Friday, an earthquake of magnitude 3.3 on the Richter scale hit 79 km west of Tura in Meghalaya, as per the National Centre for Seismology.

Army Driver Booked Over Minor's Death

Srinagar: Police on Saturday filed a case against an army driver after his vehicle caused death of a minor boy in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday. According to reports, a case FIR (151/2020) u/s 304A and 279 MVA was filed against army driver Naik Bagh Singh from 47 RR by police in connection with the death of a 12-year-old boy Farhan Ahmad Sher Gojri in ShadiporaKigam village on Friday evening. The boy as per the reports came under an Army vehicle. He sustained critical conditions and **● P-02**

College Student Feared Drowned In Doda

Bhadrawah: A 22-year-old college student is feared to have drowned in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Saturday, police said. WarisAlam, a resident of Bun village, was among a group of youth taking bath in Neeruriver. He went in deep water and was carried away by the strong current near Nai-Dhangri village this afternoon, the police said. "As soon, we came to know about the incident, a police team along with locals, volunteers of an NGO and sleuths of SDRF started the search and rescue operation but as the last **● P-02**

14 More Test COVID-19 Positive InLadakh

Leh: Fourteen more people tested positive for coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the total number of cases in the union territory to 960 on Saturday, while the number of active cases dropped to 405, with 87 more COVID-19 patients getting discharged after recovery, health department officials said. Of the fresh virus cases, nine were reported in Kargil district and five in Leh district, they said. With this, the total number of cases in Ladakh -- 701 in Kargil and 259 in Leh -- has increased to 960, **● P-02**

29 Foreign Militants Active In South Kashmir IGP

Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police said on Saturday that 29 foreign militants are active in South Kashmir but assured that the security forces are experienced enough to deal with them and wipe out militancy from whole of South Kashmir. "There is a presence of foreign militants in the upper reaches of Kokernag, Tral and Khrew. There are

PAGE 1 Anchor

Jyotsna Bharti

SRINAGAR: A few years ago, when Amreen's husband was killed in a shootout between armed forces and militants, she became the sole breadwinner of the family of five, including three children and one old mother.

What sustained the young widow during her tormenting time was her spinning wheel. She would turn the raw pashmina into fine threads used for weaving shawls.

Amreen's industrious and back-breaking labour would ensure the two-time honourable meal for her children. But now, she's finding it hard to put food

on the table of her family.

Recurrent lockdowns in her trouble-torn homeland and the frontier face-off at the faraway land fuelling her spinning wheel have ganged up to intrude her labour of love.

"There used to be a time in recent past when my room would be filled with yarns," Amreen told Kashmir Observer in an anguished voice. "I had work and money to run my family. But now, I don't know what to do, how to fulfill the necessities of my children."

Like Amreen, thousands of Pashmina artisans—mainly widows—are suddenly marooned in the middle of the crisis and uncertainty in the valley. They're either



Ladakhi nomads with Pashmina Goats. Photo Courtesy by Kashmir Loom

sitting idle without work or working as cleaners or maids in some plush Srinagar neighbourhoods

"Whenever I visit my local Pashmina vendor these days, he tells me that the raw material won't last long now," Amreen said. "Looks like the tradition which was preserved for centuries is now going extinct."

Cashmere Crisis

After some war-fronts reared their ugly heads nearby the winter pasturelands frequented by the Ladakhi nomads with their Pashmina goats, the valley known for producing branded Cashmere shawls suffered from yet another survival stress.

In case the dragon continues to occupy the significant Pashmina goat habitat in Ladakh, Kashmir's battered business consortium is

predicting one more stabbing collapse of the traditional crafts industry of the valley.

"We're staring at the imminent fall of the traditional industry, if China won't retreat from the winter grazing lands of Pashmina goats," Sheikh Ashiq, president of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) told Kashmir Observer.

Pashmina shawls have been the brand of Kashmir since ages. The wool, Cashmere or Pashm, is sent down to valley from the high altitude plateaus of Ladakh as a raw material.

But as the two nations are currently locking horns over LAC near-by winter pasturelands **▶PAGE 02**

India Deploys Missiles, More Troops In Ladakh To Meet Chinese Threat: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: As tension continues to soar between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Indian armed forces have deployed advanced quick-reaction surface-to-air missile defence systems in the mountainous region to thwart any possible attack by Chinese forces, ANI reported Saturday.

Indian military is also amassing more men and material as a precautionary deployment along the 3,488-km-long disputed border to meet any eventuality.

The deployment, perhaps one of the biggest in the recent years, comes at a time when India and China are locked in a hitherto unprecedented standoff - for eight weeks now - at multiple points along their border.

Quoting government sources news agency ANI reported Saturday, that as part of the ongoing build-up in the sector, the air defence systems of both Indian Army and the Indian Air Force have been deployed in the sector to "prevent any misadventure by the Chinese Air Force fighter jets or the People's



Image for representation only

Cong Asks PM To 'Take Strong, Quick Action'

The Congress on Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly condemn China for its "brazen incursions" into Indian territory and urged the government to take "strong and quick action" to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) issue. Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said at a virtual press conference that the prime minister should address the nation and promise that anyone capturing Indian territory would **● P-02**

Liberation Army choppers there."

India's move comes in the wake of massive Chinese buildup, including posting its superiority aircraft like the Sukhoi-30 and its strategic bombers to the rear locations which have been detected

flying near the Indian territory maintaining the 10 km plus distance from the boundary.

To keep a check on enemy flying, the report says India would deploy a highly capable air defence system as soon as it arrives from **▶PAGE 02**

THE INDIAN QUICK REACTION AIR DEFENCE MISSILE INCLUDES the Akash missile which can take down very fast-moving combat aircraft and drones in few seconds and many modifications and upgrades have already been done in it to make it suitable for deployment in the high mountainous terrain."

3 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K Toll 94

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR-Three more Covid-19 positive patients died in Kashmir, taking the number of fatalities due to the disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 94, officials said on Saturday.

A 45-year-old woman Batengoo Khanabal area of south Kashmir passed away at SKIMS Soura hospital on Saturday, they said.

The woman was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with hypertension and other ailments. She tested positive for the vi-

35 Paramilitary Men, 2 Soldiers Among 204 Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday witnessed another jump in Covid-19 cases, as 204 more people, including 33 paramilitary personnel and two soldiers tested positive for **● P-02**

rus on Friday and was then shifted to COVID block of the hospital, they officials said. **▶PAGE 02**

No Summer Respite From Covid Cases In Kashmir: DAK

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday expressed concern over the rising coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the hope of summer heat stopping Covid-19 does not seem to be the case.

"Despite high temperatures, Covid-19 cases are rising in Kashmir," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"With hundreds of new cases surfacing each day, Kashmir has recorded more than 4,000 Covid cases in last 26 days," he said.

"High levels of heat and humidity prevent spread of flu and other respiratory viruses, Dr Nisar said

adding "even some related coronavirus show fewer cases in summer and they mainly circulate in winter months."

"We were hoping the heat of summer will also reduce the viability of the novel virus," he said.

"But, Covid-19 seems to behave differently and the virus is spreading in spite of soaring temperatures," Dr Nisar said.

"The climate will become a factor in controlling the spread of Covid only after the emergence of collective immunity," he said.

"Those who have not yet developed immunity to the virus would get the disease no matter **▶PAGE 02**

Srinagar Records Season's Hottest Day At 32.9 Degree Celsius

SRINAGAR: Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on Saturday recorded this season's highest temperature at 32.9 degrees Celsius, an official in the local Meteorological department said.

The temperature in Kashmir is witnessing an upward trend and as per the officials, Srinagar has experienced this season's hottest day today.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that there is possibility of further rise in day temperature.

"There will be a gradual rise in day as well as night temperature in upcoming days," he said, adding that there is possibility **● P-02**

KCCI Sounds Alarm Over Mining Contracts

SRINAGAR: Describing the policy adopted by the Geology and Mining Department over allotment of mining and extraction as alarming, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Saturday said the move has deprived thousands of families of their livelihood and exposed consumers to exploitation by a mining syndicate.

In a statement issued here today, a KCCI spokesperson said that recent bidding for mineral blocks in Kashmir province clearly indicates that local stakeholders have been sidelined.

"Use of financial musclepower has totally wiped them out in Srinagar and reports from **● P-02**

J&K Govt Speeds Up Domicile Certificate Process

50 Certificates Issued To WPRs, Others At A 'Special Camp' In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Despite stiff opposition by the political parties, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday distributed domicile certificates among the 'non-locals', including West Pakistani refugees in this winter capital.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sanjeev Verma in a special camp organized today distributed 50 domicile certificates to those sections of the society who were residing in J&K for the last more than 70 years but were 'deprived of their legitimate citizenship rights', an official spokesperson said.

Among those, the official spokesperson said included West Pakistani refugees, members of

Balmiki Samaj, Gorkhas and others from R S Pura, Bishnah, Bahu, Jammu South and several other parts of Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Verma said that with the distribution of domicile certificates the long pending demand of the public has been fulfilled.

"People who were living in Jammu and Kashmir for last many years but were deprived of citizenship rights now have equal rights as other citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Under the Domicile Rules all those persons and their children who have resided for 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir or have studied for seven years and appeared in class 10th or 12th **▶PAGE 02**

PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING IN JAMMU and Kashmir for last many years but were deprived of citizenship rights now have equal rights as other citizens of Jammu and Kashmir,"

MoS Jitendra, 8980 Others Get Domicile Certificates

Union Minister of State in Prime Minister Office Dr Jitendra Singh and as many as 8980 people from Doda district have received their domicile certificates, officials said Saturday. Singh, who is also Member Parliament Udhampur- Doda Constituency, received today his domicile certificate online, officials said. Singh hails from village Kalhota Malhori of Doda district. "The Union Minister applied for the domicile certificate through online mode by following all the rules, **● P-02**

Pak Rejects Grant Of Domicile Certificate To Non-Kashmiris

Pakistan on Saturday "rejected" the grant of domicile certificates by India to the people not originally from Jammu and Kashmir. As per the new domicile law, non-permanent residents who have residency proof of at least 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to get domicile certificates. Over 30,000 people have till now received domicile certificates online in Jammu and Kashmir after the Indian government changed laws to grant residency to different categories of non-residents in the Union territory. **● P-02**

Was Asked To Quit Politics For Freedom: Nayeem Akhtar

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Divulging his detention details days after being released from custody and subsequently evicted from his Gupkar residence, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) senior leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar said he was repeatedly visited by government representatives and intelligence officials during his captivity at "subsidiary jails".

"They persuaded me to ... sign a bond saying that I would not in-



dulge in any political activity after being released," Akhtar told Asian

Age's Kashmir bureau chief, Yusuf Jameel in an exclusive chat. "I was asked to quit politics to walk free, evade harrying and live a comfortable life with my family."

A onetime close-confidante of late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Akhtar had sought premature retirement from government services in 2008 to join the PDP.

"I was asked to sign the bond many times. I was, in fact, the first person among the detainees who was approached for it in **▶PAGE 02**

I WAS ASKED TO SIGN THE BOND MANY TIMES. I WAS, IN FACT, the first person among the detainees who was approached for it in September last year itself. They told me that since I'm facing several health issues it would be better for me to come out of the jail and go home,"

Farooq Abdullah Inaugurates Ice Cream Shop In Srinagar

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In his first public appearance after release from house arrest former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Farooq Abdullah Saturday inaugurated an ice cream shop in Srinagar.

Dr Abdullah who has been lying low ever since his release last month appeared at Sangarmal Shopping Complex on MA Road and inaugurated 'Nirula's Ice Cream' shop there.

Dr Farooq who is incumbent member of Parliament was placed under house arrest on August 5 following abrogation of Kashmir's special status and its division. At the inauguration of the ice cream joint, franchisee of popular Indian food chain Nirula's Dr Farooq was accompanied by his younger brother Dr

Sheikh Mustafa Kamal.

Dr Farooq declined to answer volley of questions from the journalists present there.



Nirula's is India's oldest fast food restaurant chain and its first restaurant was opened in the New Delhi's busiest Connaught Place in 1977.

Talking to Kashmir Observer Nirula's franchise owner Ashiq Rafiq Khan said that he plans to expand his business and open more branches **▶PAGE 02**