



Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 02°C
Humidity : 42%

SUNSET
Today 05:33 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:55 AM



News Digest

Cop Found Hanging From A Tree

Srinagar: A policeman was found hanging from a tree in Magam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, hours after he went missing, police said. A police official said that body of the constable was found near BatporaKanihama area of Magam. The slain constable has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf son of Abdul Majeed Rather of ArchanderhamaMagam. Sources said the constable was posted at Parihaspora Pattan and was missing since last night from his home. Further details of the incident are awaited, the official added.

Kotwal Posted IGR, Kabra Gets Revenue

JAMMU- According to a government order issued here today, Dr. PawanKotwal, Principal Secretary Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K and Inspector General of Registration, J&K, has been posted as Inspector General of Registration (IGR), J&K. Likewise, ShaleenKabra, Principal Secretary, Home Department, shall hold the charge of Principal Secretary, Revenue Department and Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

3 Houses Guttled In Gurez Fire

Gurez: At least three residential houses and two cowsheds on Thursday were damaged in a massive blaze that broke out in Gurezvalley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday evening. Locals said fire broke out in a double-storey residential house belonging to GhulamRasool Lone of BudgaamTulail and immediately engulfed nearby houses. They said that the fire tenders failed to reach on time due to the congested roads, resulting in damage to three residential houses and two cowsheds. However, an official said that a police team along with

3 Teenagers Injured In Budgam Accident

Srinagar: Three teenagers on Thursday were injured in a road accident in Pymusa area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Aqib Farooq Dar was riding his motorcycle when he lost control over his bike in Pymusa area of district, officials said. In the accident, Dar's pillion riders identified as AbrarGulzarBhat son of Gulzar Ahmed and Arshad Ahmed Lone son of Abdul Rashid were also injured. The injured trio, all between the age group of 18 to 19 years, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Bear, Cub Found Dead In Awantipora

Srinagar: A bear and a cub on Thursday were found dead on Srinagar- Jammu highway near Awantipora. The bodies were found lying on the highway near Noorpora, officials said. They said it was believed that a speedy vehicle might have crushed the wild animals to death during the intervening night of November 4-5. An official from the Wild Life Department told news agency KNT that a team removed the bodies of the bear and cub from the road.

'Stop The Count', Trump Tweets As Biden Inches Closer To Victory

US Presidential Election In Limbo



Rachael D'Amore

WASHINGTON: Two days after Election Day, the fate of U.S. President Donald Trump and former vice-president Joe Biden still hangs in the balance.

Over the last 24 hours, Biden has turned a corner. The Democratic candidate, who has been steeped in American politics for nearly a half-century, secured victories in Wisconsin and Michigan and retaining his electoral college vote lead over Trump. Biden currently has 264 of the 270 electoral votes, while Trump

sits at 214.

There are still hurdles to cross. Biden's victory in Michigan means he's technically one battleground state away from achieving his White House hopes, but calls for recounts could further delay determining a president-elect.

Much of the attention has now turned to Nevada, where the Biden campaign is leading slightly. A victory would clinch the state's six electoral votes — and the presidency — for the Democrats.

Trump faces a bigger challenge at this point. To achieve

LoC Heats Up In Poonch

JAMMU: India and Pakistani troops traded heavy gunfire and mortar shells ON Thursday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan army violated the ceasefire thrice on Thursday by resorting to heavy firing and shelling on forward areas and posts in three sectors along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

The Pakistani side also resorted to firing along the International Border (IB), targeting hamlets and border outposts in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district overnight, they added.

"At about 1730 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors in district Poonch," a defence spokesman said here.

He said the Indian Army mounted a befitting retaliation.

On October 1, an Army jawan was killed and another injured when Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Krishnagati area of Poonch district.

A soldier was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured on September 5 in Pakistani firing and shelling along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district.

On September 2, one JCO was killed in another ceasefire violation along the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

According to official sources, 3,589 ceasefire violations by Pakistan were reported

2 Civilians Injured In Ongoing Pampore Encounter

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two civilians were injured, one among them critically in the ongoing encounter between government forces and militants in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Thursday.

Acting on inputs suggesting presence of militants, army's 50 RR, special operations group (SOG) of police and CRPF appeared in Lalpora village of Pampore and started a cordon and search operation, a police spokesperson said. He said while cordon was being laid, the militants hiding in the village fired "indiscriminately" leaving at least two people injured.

A local news agency KNO identified the two injured civilians as Abid Nabi and Kifayat Ahmad, both residents of Pampore.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Pampore, Gulzar Ahmad said that two persons—one with head injury and another with thigh injury were received at SDH Pampore and both were referred to Srinagar.

"Abid Nabi with critical head injury is undergoing treatment at SMHS Srinagar while Kifayat Ahmad is undergoing treatment at Bone and Joint hospital," a health official said.



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

Gunmen Kill Shopkeeper, Injure Driver In Pulwama

Unidentified gunmen on Thursday shot dead a shopkeeper and injured a cab driver in two separate attacks in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. According to the officials, unidentified gunmen appeared in Tral town on Thursday evening and fired upon the shopkeeper identified as Mohammad Ayoub Ahangar. The shopkeeper, they said was critically injured in the attack. He was taken to the nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Taking to its official Twitter page, police wrote the hiding militants have been tracked by the combined forces and the encounter between the two

sides was going on. According to the reports, the state forces have tightened the cordon in the village and have installed lights to foil any attempts of the holed-up militants to escape.

Right Wing Groups Protest Mehbooba's Jammu Visit, Wave Black Flags

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was shown black flags at the Jammu Airport on Thursday by local Shiv Sena and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists protesting against her remarks on the national flag.

The activists asked the former chief minister to go back and threatened to disrupt law and order here if she was allowed to carry forward her Gupkar Agenda in Jammu.

Led by youth leaders Rakesh Kumar and Manish Kumar, the Shiv Sena Sena and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists blocked the road on



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

the Jammu Airport and showed black flags on her arrival.

However, police later cleared the road to facilitate passage of Mufti. Amid chants of

PDP Leaders Refuse To Sign Surety Bonds

Over a dozen Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders on Thursday declined to sign a surety bond before the Executive Magistrate stating that they will not indulge in "unlawful and anti-national activities". At least 19 PDP leaders, who were detained and booked last week under

Notifications Issued For DDC Elections, Panchayat-Municipal By-Polls

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner K K Sharma issued the first notification on Thursday for conducting the maiden election to the district development councils (DDCs) in 20 districts and by-polls to panchayats.

The DDC elections, the first major political activity since the abrogation of Article 370 provisions on August 5 last year, will be held in eight phases from November 28 to December 22.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

Hardesh Kumar also issued the first notification for conducting an eight-phase bypoll for the civic bodies.

According to the notification, the last date for submitting nominations is next Thursday, followed by scrutiny a day later and withdrawal of candidature on November 16.

He said the polling would be held from 9 am to 1 pm on November 28 and the counting of votes will be taken up on the same day for panchayat bypolls and on December 22 for the DDC polls.

The date before which the election shall be completed

Gunmen Loot Rs 60L From JKB Cash Van In Shopian

SRINAGAR: Unknown gunmen on Thursday looted Rs 60 lakh cash from a bank van in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Around 10:30 am, several unknown gunmen looted cash from a van of Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch Shopian near Jamia Masjid area in south Kashmir, a police official said.

He said the gunmen took away about Rs 60 lakh rupees from the bank van.

Police have registered a case and investigation has been set into motion, the official said.

No Construction Within 200-Mts Of Wular Lake: HC



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has banned constructions within 200 metres of the boundaries of the Wular Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes of Asia.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Sanjay Dhar also directed authorities to ensure that no garbage was "at all"

dumped within the boundaries or within such distance of the Lake as is mandated by the law as well as the International and National Protocols for such area.

Rejecting the "excuse" by the government that garbage was dumped within the boundaries of the Wular Lake "for want of land for the dumping of the garbage."

"We make it clear that this is no excuse at all for

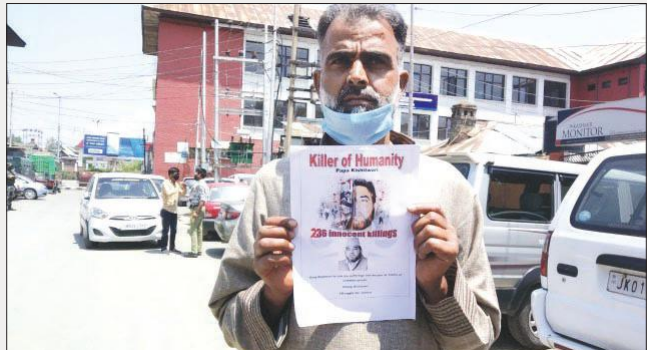
24 Years Later, Papa Kishtwari's Death Concludes Srinagar Man's Campaign

Auqib Javed

A struggle-hardened campaigner from Srinagar—whose father became one of the victims of the former renegade chief Papa Kishtwari—is now looking forward to live rest of his life in peace after his family's 'tormentor' passed away.

WITH tears in his eyes and smile on his parched face, 50-year old Zahoor Ahmad Mir walked inside Srinagar's Press Enclave on Thursday afternoon to announce an uncanny closure of his two-decade-old campaign.

After losing his lawyer Baber Qadri to assassins this past September,



Zahoor 'got rid of his tormentor' to cardiac arrest on Thursday.

Zahoor said his father, Ali Mohammad Mir, a contractor from Nishat

area of Srinagar city, was killed by Ghulam Muhammad Lone alias Papa Kishtwari in 1996. His body was not returned till date, he added.

Kishtwari, the onetime dreaded Ikhwani commander operating from saffron town Pampore, his stronghold back in nineties, was facing a trial in series of killings and was currently lodged in Srinagar's Central Jail.

He died in a Srinagar hospital on Thursday.

"He died under trial, not before killing over 236 innocent people," Zahoor told Kashmir Observer.

"I was fighting against him alone for the last two decades and it really hurts that he wasn't punished for the heinous crimes he committed despite all the evidences against him."

In Srinagar's Press

6 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1521

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed six more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the death toll since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1521, officials said.

Kashmir valley reported four more Covid-19 deaths, while two more people also succumbed to the infection in the winter capital, they said. In Valley, three of the victims were residents of Srinagar, while another one was from Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

Among others, the victims from Srinagar include an 80-year-old man from Lal Bazar, who died at SKIMS Soura, three days after he was admitted to the

31 Security Men Among 524 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 524 fresh cases of Covid-19, including six CRPF men, as many BSF personnel besides 19 army soldiers and two minors. Among them, 185 cases were confirmed from Jammu and 339 from Kashmir Valley, officials said.

tertiary care hospital, they said. Also, they said, a 60-year-old woman from Ganderbal died at SKIMS, a week after she was admitted to the hospital.

In FOCUS / Junked As 'Surplus', Teachers Becoming Tillers In Kashmir

Bisma Bhat

Every morning, Arshid Ahmad, a 40-year-old contractual college lecturer readies himself not for his routine classroom teaching session but to work in one of the relative's land as a farm labourer.

Soon after the Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status on August 5, 2019, Arshid was disowned by the higher education department. Sans job and salary, he was forced to do land tilling to feed his family.

Hailing from south Kashmir's Kulgam district, Arshid—a post-graduate in Political Science and National



Eligibility Test (NET) qualifier—was appointed as a contractual lecturer in 2004 and since then he has been serving the higher education department with a hope that his services would be regularized one day.

"For the first 10 years of my

career, I was solely running the department of Political Science," Arshid said. "I was going out of my way to serve the department."

However, after August last year, the department told him that they do not need his services anymore.

"After taking 15-years of services from me, the government has now categorized me as 'surplus candidate' and discarded me as deadwood of the department," Arshid rued, adding that he was left with no option other than to work as a tiller to support his family.

"School fee of my children is pending since March because I've not received my pending salary. What will I feed my family, if I won't work as a tiller now," he lamented.

Not eligible for any other job

Arshid is among the 500 senior-most college contractual lecturers who've served the department for nearly two decades and are not eli-

gible for any other job, as they've crossed the upper age limit.

After giving their youth to the department, the government has issued an order categorizing them into "surplus candidates". The order has come as a big blow for these teachers awaiting regularization since years now.

Since 1995, Dr. Fayaz Wani, a senior-most college contractual lecturer, has already served the Arabic Department for 25 years.

Hailing from Magam area of district Budgam, 52-year-old Wani is currently posted at Government Degree College Kanshab. Like others in his contractual

JKTDC Throws Open Ethnic Food Joint Kong Posh At Zero Bridge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The residents of the capital city and tourists coming to the place would have something special to relish in the heart of the city.

The J&K Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) today threw open its Kong Posh, restaurant on the banks of Jhelum at Zero Bridge, Rajbagh.

The restaurant was inaugurated by Advisor to Lt. Governor, Baseer A Khan.

The special feature of the restaurant thrown open to-

day would be that ethnic foods like Harissa, Alae Hachi te Maaz, Handh te Kokur, Mujje te Gaade, Paache, Nader te Gaade, Zombre thool te Gogje aarae, Noon Chai, Kehwa te Shirmal besides wazwan and other street and local fast foods would be available and served at the restaurant.

Another attraction of the venue was the stalls of Handicrafts, Pottery , Wicker work, Paper machie, pashmina weaving, wicker works put up for the interest of the visitors.

Supplementing this ambi-

ence was a blend of kashmiri music on display at the venue to give a feel of local art, craft, culture and lifestyle to the visitors.

On the occasion, Secretary Tourism, Culture & YSS, Sarmad Hafeez, Director Tourism, Kashmir and MD, JKTDC, Nisar Ahmad Wani besides other officers from JKTDC and Tourism department and a large number of visitors were present.

The restaurant has been thrown open at a time when winters are about to set in here, and to syn-

chronise with the coming season the ethnic kashmiri cuisines or traditional foods have been put on display and offered to the customers at the restaurant.

The Advisor on the occasion complimented the Department for conceiving the idea and hoped that the people would encourage this move of the Department of popularising the ethnic cuisine and culture.

He also said that the restaurant shall act as an evening activity to the locals where they can relish traditional

foods and catch glimpses of the local art besides it will also provide a platform for the artists to display their art.

The Secretary Tourism on the occasion said that since the local foods are famous world over, this year during travel marts we will invite people from outside for both Kashmiri and Jammu food festivals.

He said the department is careful about Covid protocols and have issued strict instructions to the staff to adhere to SOPs in letter and spirit.

Request for Proposal
For

Hiring of Human Resource (HR) Agency
for

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, des to engage a credible Human Resource (HR) Agency for providing support to MoFI recruitment of professionals under the various schemes of MoFPI.

For details regarding eligibility, terms of reference, timeline etc. kindly refer to the I of tender ID:-2020_MoFPI_593444_1 and related corrigendum at Ministry's web (https://mofpi.nic.in/tender/RFP) and at Central Public Procurement Pt (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)

Eligible firms willing to participate and meeting the eligibility criteria may submit the application as per the stipulated timeline.

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US Presidential Election...

a second term, the president needs to claim all four remaining battle-ground states: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada.

Trump, who prematurely claimed victory in many, if not all, of the aforementioned states, has lost some ground since Wednesday.

In Pennsylvania, a critical state for both candidates, there are more than one million votes left to be counted. Trump's early lead slipped Wednesday evening from 675,000 to about 239,000. Pennsylvania's results could be seen by the end of Thursday.

In North Carolina and Georgia, the race is still too early to call due to the sheer number of day-of ballots and potentially thousands of provisional ones.

Officials in Georgia say they're about 96 per cent complete, but there are still 60,000 votes to count. "We're working to get these done today, if possible," Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said Thursday.

"We're anticipating an extremely close margin."

Nevada could be the first call on Thursday. Election officials in the state's most populous county said more results will be released sometime Thursday morning that include mail-in ballots received Tuesday and Wednesday. Counting has been a mighty challenge for the state, which opted to send ballots to all 1.7 million active registered voters this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Nevada, about 75 per cent of the votes are in and tallies show Biden leading by just shy of 8,000 votes.

At an afternoon news conference Wednesday, Biden expressed confidence in winning the undecided states. He said he expected to win the presidency, but was clear his words did not mean he was declaring victory.

"Only three campaigns in the past have defeated an incumbent president. When it's finished, God willing, we'll be the fourth," he told a crowd of supporters.

"Every vote must be counted. No one is going to take our democracy away from us. Now now, not ever."

By contrast, Trump, who falsely claimed he had won the election multiple times, initiated a rash of lawsuits to cast doubt on the validity of the election results and to stop vote-counting.

His campaign has requested a recount in Wisconsin and filed lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia. Some reports suggest Trump is readying similar legal action in Nevada and Arizona, the latter was flipped in favour of Biden, according to The Associated Press projections. State officials say there are about 450,000 ballots still to be counted, many from his biggest county, Maricopa.

"STOP THE COUNT!" Trump wrote in a tweet on Thursday morning.

Two of his campaign officials, Corey Lewandowski and Pam Bondi, held a news conference outside a Philadelphia counting center on Thursday morning and challenged the validity of the Pennsylvania vote, which they provided no evidence for. They told reporters members of the campaign would go inside and "watch what's going on." Lewandowski said they would stand "six feet away... in accordance with coronavirus protocols," but that they would not "stand at a distance."

The president spent much of Wednesday at the White House, using his Twitter feed and campaign team to escalate unfounded theories about "surprise ballot dumps" being behind shifting projections in key states. Many of his tweets were flagged by Twitter for violating its policies for being misleading.

He also threatened to bring some state's results to the U.S. Supreme Court, which does not hear direct challenges.

"We will win this," he in an address from the White House on election night. "And as far as I'm concerned, we already won it."

It's far from unusual that vote-counting stretches past Election Day. States are predominantly responsible for setting the rules when the count has to end. However, an unprecedented number of mailed-in ballots — in part due to coronavirus concerns — has proved it does, in fact, take more time to tabulate.

Plus, according to some state laws, some ballots received after the election must still be counted if they are postmarked by a deadline.

Trump, whose public comments have no impact on the tallying of votes across the country, tweeted Thursday that "any vote that came in after election day will not be counted." This tweet was also flagged by Twitter.

There is no basis to Trump's claim. In North Carolina, state law allows mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if they are received by Nov. 12. In Pennsylvania, mail-in ballots are accepted up to three days after the election if they are postmarked by Election Day. State and election officials defended their process repeatedly on Wednesday. Among all of them, they stressed that accuracy is more important than speed.

"The delay we're seeing is a sign that the system is working," Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said Wednesday.

That hasn't stopped Trump supporters from protesting the results so far. On Wednesday, protesters in Detroit, Mich., flooded a ballot-tallying center demanding counters to stop.

Trump has cast doubt on mail-in voting for months. He's claimed that mail-in ballots invite fraud, which he reiterated Wednesday when no clear winner had emerged.

Those against Trump protested in several U.S. cities to demand the opposite — a complete vote count.

Anxiety over the prolonged outcome, and Trump's next moves, also lured protesters to streets outside the White House for a second night. Police in Portland arrested 11 people and seized fireworks, hammers and a rifle. Oregon's governor also activated the U.S. National Guard in response. In New York, police said they made about 50 arrests in protests that spread widely in the city late Wednesday (Global News).

LoC Heats Up In Poonch...

along the LoC and the IB this year till October 6, compared to a total of 3,168 in 2019.

The highest number of 427 ceasefire violations took place in September, followed by 411 in March and 408 in August, the sources said, adding that 398 such incidents were recorded in July, 387 each in June and April, 382 in May, 366 in February and 367 in January

Gunmen Kill Shopkeeper,...

Barely an hour after this incident, unknown gunmen shot at and injured a cab driver in Kakapora in the district.

The driver Mohammad Aslam was fired upon by gunmen in Wanpora village due to which he received injuries in his arm. The injured driver

was removed to sub-district hospital Pampore for treatment. According to the officials, his condition is stable.

Soon after the shootout, state forces reached the village and started a search operation to nab the attackers.

Right Wing Groups Protest ...

Mehbooba Mufti Hai Hai' and 'Mehbooba go back', the activists, including women, appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha not to allow the meeting of the Gupkar alliance in Jammu on November 7.

Jammu and Kashmir's mainstream political parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, formed the Gupkar alliance on October 15 for restoration of special status of the erstwhile state and also to initiate a dialogue between all the stakeholders on the issue.

"We will not allow it to happen. We will go there and hold protests. No anti-India meeting will be held on the soil of Jammu," Shiv Sena leader Manish Kumar told reporters.

Mufti's visit to Jammu can disturb the law and order situation and it is up to the government to take a call to ensure no meeting takes place here, he said.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal head Rakesh Kumar also said they will not allow the meeting of the Gupkar Alliance to take place in Jammu.

"She has come here today with the Gupkar Agenda. We will not allow it here. We warn all those who will take part in their Gupkar agenda," Kumar said.

He hit out at Mufti for her remarks on the national flag.

"We have protested against her with black flags. We have shown her black flags because she has always insulted the tricolour and also the law or land," he added.

Protests were staged outside the PDP office last month after Mufti said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year are rolled back.

Following the PDP chief's statements, the BJP had accused her of making "seditious remarks" and had demanded her arrest.

PDP Leaders Refuse To...

sections 107/151 CrPc for taking out a protest rally against the new land laws, appeared before Tehsildar South on Thursday, where they were asked to sign surety bonds. In the surety bond, the PDP leaders were asked to give an undertaking that they will not indulge in any unlawful anti-national activities and if they do so, then they shall be liable to face any action as per law.

Following the refusal to sign surety bond, the Executive Magistrate listed the case for next hearing on November 24.

"It is a legal battle and we will fight it legally," PDP leader Yasin Bhat said.

Another leader Rouf Bhat said that the case has been listed for next hearing on 24 November.

Some of the leaders who were detained by police for trying to hold a march included Muhammad Khurshid Aalam, Abdul Hameed Kosheen, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Rouf Bhat, Tahir Sayeed, Yasin Bhat, Arif Laigaro, Mohsin Qayoom Wani, Harbaksh Singh, Suhail Bukhari and others

Meanwhile, PDP President Mehbooba Mufti lashed out at the BJP and questioned in which democracy was the right to peacefully protest an 'anti national' activity?

"In which democracy is the right to peacefully protest an 'anti national' activity? PDP members detained last week for attempting to peacefully protest against news land laws in J&K today refused to sign a dictatorial affidavit that terms dissent as anti national," Mehbooba wrote on her Twitter page.

"When will this deliberate attempt to conflate BJP with India stop? How does disagreeing with BJP's communal & divisive actions tantamount to being an anti national or sedition? Seems like India is the worlds largest democracy only on paper now," she wrote in another Tweet.

Notifications Issued For DDC...

has been fixed as December 24, the spokesperson added.

He said the delimitation had been done for the constituencies and 280 DDCs identified across the Union territory for undertaking elections, with 14 DDC constituencies in each district.

"The term of the DDC will be for five years," he had said, adding that West Pakistan refugees (WPRs) would also be entitled to exercise the right of franchise in these elections.

Sharma also issued the first notification for conducting an eight-phase by-election for panchayats to elect 12,153 sarpanches and panches. The elections will be held for 24 blocks spread over 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley and 53 blocks in six districts of Jammu division. This will be the first major electoral process to be carried out in the region since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir in August last year.

The last elections to the panchayats were held in November-December 2018, in which 22,214 panches and 3,459 sarpanches were elected by the respective returning officers.

Further vacancies have accrued on account of deaths and resignations of the elected sarpanches and panches. Another 307 seats fell vacant due to election of chairpersons to the block development councils in October last year.

The CEO had issued a schedule in February for election to vacant panchayat constituencies, covering 274 out of 285 blocks, but these were postponed due to the coronavirus situation.

Chief Electoral Officer Hadresh Kumar also issued on Thursday the first notification for conducting an eight-phase by-election for Municipal urban local bodies for 234 vacant wards from November 28

No Construction Within 200...

dumping the garbage within the identified boundaries of the Wular Lake. The respondents (authorities) are bound to and shall ensure that no garbage at all is dumped within the boundaries or within such distance of the Lake as is mandated by the law as well as the International and National Protocols of the area," the court said, adding, "Every step in this regard shall be undertaken to ensure that there is no pollution of the Lake."

Besides being amongst fresh water lakes, the water body's associated wetlands support rich biodiversity and provides habitat to migratory birds within Central Asia flyover. It is also largest fisheries resource in Kashmir Valley, supporting livelihoods of large human population living

along its fringes.

The court had made a visit to the area on 10 October this and had observed that garbage was previously being dumped within the boundaries of the Wular Lake.

"During our Court visit, attention was also drawn to encroachments which have come up within the boundaries and on the banks of the Wular Lake, in any case within 200 metres of the Wular Lake," the division bench said, adding, "The respondents (authorities) shall immediately take necessary steps for removal of the encroachments within the boundary and vicinity of Wular Lake and in the no construction activity shall be permitted or come up within 200 metres of the boundaries of the Wular Lake."

Meanwhile Faizan-ul-Haq Iqbal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Baramulla informed that a Committee of the officials of the Revenue Department, Flood Control and Irrigation Department and the Forest Department have identified the land in Baramulla as well as Sopore for creation of a Solid Waste landfill.

"We direct that no obstruction shall be caused by any person to the setting up of this site. The Police Department shall ensure provision of adequate security to enable setting up of the garbage dumping sites," the court said.

It also directed the authorities to undertake the awareness drive in the area to educate people in devising the generation of work, solid and liquid waste, as also preventing garbage dumping and littering of the area. The court also directed Wular Lake authority to identify the issues, the steps underway as well as proposed and "discuss and seek guidance" of a Committee of Experts (CoE), constituted by the court for preservation and protection of the Dal Lake. (GNS)

24 Years Later, Papa...

Enclave, Zahoar thanked police for "at least for detaining the killer", who would've otherwise killed more people as a free man, the son of the slain contractor said.

Back in 1996, Zahoar said, Kishtwari had sent his armed guard, Muhammad Maqbool Sheikh, to his father.

"Sheikh demanded Rs 5000 from my father and threatened him of dire consequences if he failed to pay," Zahoar, the witness, said. "My father refused to follow the diktat. But a few days later, Sheikh again approached him and demanded Rs 3 lakhs."

On June 26, 1996, Zahoar said, his father went to Srinagar and never returned. The family filed a police complaint on June 29 and also met Kishtwari who demanded Rs 3 lakh for the contractor's release.

"We could only arrange Rs 1.5 lakh," he said. "Despite giving him half of the ransom money, that merciless murderer didn't release my father. After a few days one of Kishtwari's guards told me that the Kishtwari had killed my father on June 26 itself and had thrown his body into Jhelum."

A "watchman turned war-criminal", Zahoar said, Kishtwari was known for murder, torture and extortion.

Before becoming a renegade ringleader, he was a junior paramilitary officer. He had reportedly joined Al-Jihad militant outfit and was arrested in 1993. After coming out of his 21-month-long imprisonment, he joined the counter-insurgent group, Ikhwana, a pack of former rebels turned counterinsurgents.

"In Pampore, people had to seek Kishtwari's permission before celebrating any religious festival after evening," Zahoar said. "Late night marriages were out of question and unheard of in the town during his reign. It's believed he killed at least 150 civilians alone in this Safran township."

After unleashing a reign of terror and losing many of his group members to insurgent strikes back in early 2000, Papa was arrested in 2006. In 2007, more than a decade after his father's murder, Zahoar said, an FIR was registered in the case.

An FIR vide number 16/2007 under section 302,364,342,120-B RPC stands registered in Police Station Nishat against the two accused Ghulam Rasool Ganaie and Khurshid Ahmed Ganaie for "kidnaping and murdering" Zahoar's father.

"Kishtwari applied for bail many times but my late lawyer Babar Qadri had made the case strong against him," Zahoar said.

"But after Babar's killing, I lost all the hopes because I was fighting for years and they say justice delayed is justice denied, but Allah's Durbur never disappoints you. I will now spend the rest of my life peacefully as the 'murderer' is dead."

6 More Coronavirus Deaths...

The two deaths reported from Jammu include one each from the J&K's winter capital and Ramban.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1520 in J&K—1008 in Valley and 512 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 370 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (265), Baramulla (147), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (73), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (47), Doda (48), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (32), Kathua (32), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar (15), Ramban (17), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

31 Security Men Among 524...

Giving district-wise cases, they said Srinagar reported 155, Budgam 38, Baramulla 54, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 26, Anantnag 6, Bandipora 9, Ganderbal 23, Kulgam 5, Shopian 14, Jammu 99, Rajouri 9, Udhampur 9, Doda 10, Kathua 10, Poonch 5, Samba 4, Kishtwar 19, Ramban 11 and Reasi 9.

Moreover, they said, 651 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 174 from Jammu Division and 477 from Kashmir Valley.

Junked As 'Surplus', Teachers ...

teaching camp, he's also without work and salary since August last year.

"In 2019, when the valley was witnessing an unprecedented situation, my college authorities made an unjustified transfer and brought another faculty at my place and told me that you're no more needed here. Since then I'm running from pillar to post to get justice," stressed Wani, who has a doctorate degree in Arabic.

What's worrying Wani is that he's not eligible for any other job in a government department as he has crossed the age limit.

"My forms in Public Service Commission (PSC) have been rejected many times due to the fact that I'm over-aged," Wani rued.

"Where will I go at this stage of my life? At my home, my daughters are waiting for their wedlock but I've nothing to give them. I'm

empty-handed. I'm the most unfortunate father who can't afford to marry off his daughters."

For living, the doctor has become a tiller, but people feel hesitant to hire a scholar labourer.

"They feel ashamed of seeing a Ph.D. working as a labourer in their fields," Wani continued. "Last time, while working in one of the fields in my village, I got to know it was owned by one of my students. Both of us were embarrassed to face each other that day. He did not allow me to work further in his field."

Violation of UGC Guidelines

The regulations which are formulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) direct that it should be ensured that a minimum of one teacher is available for every 10 students (1:10) at the different post-graduate departments pursuing their degrees in fields like Science as well as Media and Mass Communication studies.

Also, one teacher for every 15 students (1:15) should be available in fields like Commerce and Management, Social Sciences, and Humanities. In addition to this, for the undergraduate courses, one teacher should be available for every 25 students.

However, the prevalent ratio for the Social Science stream is 1:30, whereas for that of Science is 1:25.

"The government has shown us as 'surplus', implying they've enough faculty, when the reality is that colleges across J&K lack teaching staff," Arshid, the fired contractual lecturer, continued.

"I've approached my college principal many times but she said they don't need me. But the fact is, there's only one permanent faculty in Political Science department who's teaching 250 students."

Knock At High Court

Each year, the Higher Education Department engages lecturers on academic arrangement basis. However, senior-most lecturers face discrimination as they've to compete with the new candidates who have degrees from abroad with high merit.

"We've been toppers of our time, too, and some of us are even gold medalists," said another fired lecturer, Lateef Baba.

"Just because the new candidates happen to have more marks than us and degrees from abroad, we experienced lots are being sidelined by the department."

After getting rejection letters from the PSC and knowing government is not providing any job security to them, the contractual college lecturers said they had no other option than to seek justice from the court.

In 2015, Dr. Fayaz Wani approached the court to challenge the JK government's special provision act 2010.

In 2010, JK government enacted a policy for ad-hoc, contractual, and consolidated employees who've been working in various departments for more than seven years and said that they'll be regularized against the clear vacancy and post in the government departments.

However, the contractual lecturers working in the education department have been excluded from this policy.

"As per the act we were promised to be regularized but the government excluded us, which I challenged in the court and the government agreed that they have excluded us," Wani informed.

"Court ordered the government to provide us salary and do not disturb our position in the department till final decision comes. But post-abrogation of J&K's special status, the government simply junked the court order and disengaged us."

Lateef Baba, who's working in Government Degree College Pampore, has already sent legal notices to his college principal for restoring his services.

"But the college authority is brazenly telling me that they won't follow the court orders and allow me to work there," said Baba.

Dr. Seema Naz, Principal Degree College, Pampore, told Kashmir Observer that Baba's workload is not justified in the college, so she cannot take his services anymore.

Campaign hassles

Fired college lecturers are also accusing the officials of the higher education department of harassing them because of their justice campaign.

"Officials in Secretariat have left no stone unturned to torture and harass us mentally," said Dr Muhammad Yousuf Nengroo, Vice President JK College Contractual Teachers Association (JKCTTA).

"We're highly qualified youth and after JK became UT we've been left jobless. Government's tall claims of employment are just a hoax. Nothing has been done on the ground. Highly qualified youth are pushed towards the wall."

Reconsideration Letter

As Director Colleges, Peerzada Mohammad Yousuf Shah and Secretary Higher Education, Talat Parvez Rohella were not available for their comment on the story, a top government official told Kashmir Observer on the condition of anonymity that the college principals had sent a required list of around 1300 contractual lecturers, but the government only confirmed appointment of 800 candidates.

"500 candidates have been categorized as surplus when the colleges have dearth of these lecturers," the official said. "I don't know why the administration has not considered these candidates."

College principals, he said, have now again written to the higher education department for reconsidering the excluded candidates, as they don't have faculty available.

"We're hopeful that they will look into the matter soon," the official said.

3 Houses Guttred In Gurez Fire...

fire tenders rushed to the spot and doused the flames with the help of locals.

The official said that no loss of life or any injury was reported in the blaze. "The cause of the fire is being ascertained while the police have started investigation into the matter," the official added.

However, locals urged the administration to compensate the losses to the affected families at the earliest. (KNO)

3 Teenagers Injured In Budgam.

However, the doctors there referred one among them to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for specialised treatment.

Police has taken the cognizance of the accident, and further investigation has been set in motion. (KDC)

Bear, Cub Found Dead In ...

He said police have been asked to register a case in this regard.

Div Com for growing apple, paddy on land under poppy, bung cultivation

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today called for covering land presently under illegal poppy and bung cultivation for agricultural and horticulture purposes in Kashmir.

Div Com said this, while chairing a meeting of officers to review the preparation for action plan for bung and poppy destruction.

He said that instead of bung or poppy, apples and paddy cultivation shall be taken over on the said land.

He said that would not only help in tackling the drug abuse but also give fillip to farmer's economy.

The Div Com stressed on launching massive IEC programme to persuade people using their land for agricultural and horticultural purposes instead of growing illegal plantation.

He said that farmers shall be provided assistance like agricultural input, seeds, fertilizer and necessary gadgets for using the land for growing apple and paddy crops.

The Div Com said that though the awareness programme, people shall be sensitized about the adverse effects of drug abuse on the society and on the economy.

Jailed Ikhwani Kingpin Papa Kishtwari Dies of Heart Attack

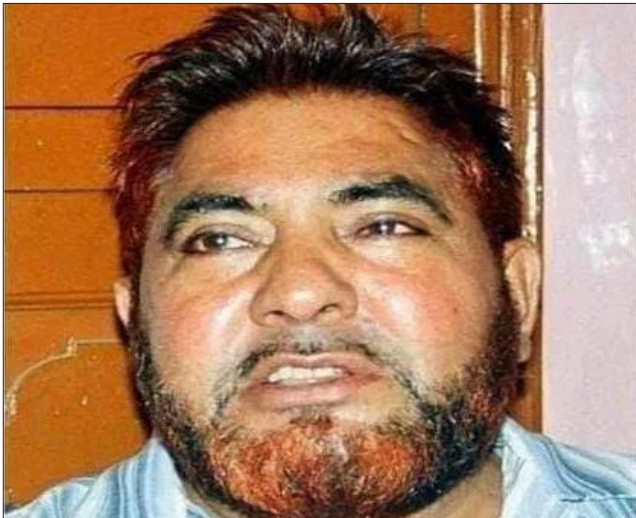
Observer News Service/ KDC

Srinagar: Ghulam Mohammad Lone alias Papa Kishtiwari, who was in custody on charges of murder of a Srinagar resident died in police hospital here on Thursday. Sources said Kishtiwari, who once spread a reign of terror, suffered a cardiac arrest and died.

Papa Kishtiwari complained of chest pain on Thursday morning and the jail authorities immediately shifted him to Police Hospital Srinagar, where he breathed his last.

"According to doctors who attended on him, Kishtiwari had suffered a massive heart attack which caused his death."

Papa Kishtiwari was a dreaded Ikhwani gunman who operated with impunity for nearly 17 years around Safa-



ron town of Pampore. He is accused of murdering scores of civilians in Pampore and surrounding areas alone.

He was currently languishing in Central Jail Srinagar on murder charges. He and his associates were accused of hav-

ing brutally murdered a contractor Ali Mohammad Mir, a resident of Brein Nishat, in broad daylight some 24 years ago. FIR vide number 16/2007 under section 364, 342, 302, 201 of RPC had been registered against him at the Police station Nishat.

Kishtiwari used to operate in south Kashmir, where villagers accused him of extra-judicial killings during his reign as an Ikhwani commander and an important deputy of slain Ikhwan founder Kuka Parrey.

Kishtiwari had been a junior officer in CRPF before the onset of militancy in 1990. According to police records, he had joined Al-Jihad militant outfit and was arrested in 1993. He had spent 21 months in jail and after his release he had joined the counter-insurgent outfit Ikhwan.

Government of India
Department of Telecommunications
O/o the Controller of Communication Accounts, J&K Telecom Circle,
HUDCO Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu (J&K)-180012
Website : www.ccajk.gov.in Email: ccaik@nic.in, Tel.No: 0191-2477283, Fax. No. 0191-2475858

No.9-24/CCA-JK/2020-21/Pen.Ada./03 Dated:- 03-11-2020
NATION WIDE TELECOM DIGITAL PENSION ADALAT

1. A Departmental Nation Wide Digital Pension Adalat is scheduled to be held through video calling at 11:00 AM on 24/11/2020 for settlement of pending pension related grievances for more than 6 months (excluding legal and policy matters) of all pensioners of Telecom Department/ BSNL Jammu & Kashmir Circle. All the pensioners/family pensioners are requested to kindly forward their pending pension grievances if any along with necessary details on email ccaik@nic.in before 18.11.2020.

2. Pensioners / family pensioners can appear in this Nation Wide Digital Pension Adalat through a video call from home at the given time to represent their case. All the pensioners/Family pensioners are requested to kindly provide their e-mail id or e mail id of any family member (who will be available with pensioner/family pensioner) in their complaint as the Pension Adalat will be held through Google Meet.

3. Link of meeting will be intimated by this office one day before the Digital Pension Adalat.

4. All future new pension cases will be settled through new pension software 'SAMPANN' of Department of Telecommunication. Regarding this, more information can be obtained from website <https://dotpension.gov.in>, Mobile App for SAMPANN is also available on 'Google Play Store' and 'ios platform' in the name of "SAMPANNA".

5. Stay healthy and safe at home, we are working to serve you.

Sd/- ACCA
O/O CCA J&K Circle

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one.
Shri : Syed Shabeer Ahmad
S/o: Syed Noor Din Qureshi
R/o: Chanthan Checkpora Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E-8162 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Rajouri Kadal Sgr. .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1775
Dated 05/11/2020

MCB

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND.

Quotation No. 03/R&B/Qzd/2020-21/5185-90
Dated.05-11-2020

Quotation affixed with Revenue Stamps worth Rs. 5/= (Rupee five) are hereby invited from the approved/Registered dealers for Supply of following items as per the enclosed Annexure.

The Quotation should properly be sealed and addressed to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund should reach this office on or before 11-11-2020 upto 2:00 PM.

The quotationer should deposit Rs.5000/= in shape of CDR pledged to the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Qazigund.

These will be opened on the same day or later in presence of the Quotationers who may wish to remain present.

The items are to be supplied within 02 days time from the date of issue of supply order and in case of any delay, 10% penalty will be imposed.

The undersigned reserves the right of acceptance/rejection of Quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.

All other terms & Conditions shall be same as provided in the P.W.D form No (25)
The material should be dumped in the Divisional stores of (R&B) Division Qazigund.

The details are given as under:-

S.No	Particulars	Qty	Rate
1.	A- Grade Hard Coke moisture/ dust free.	150 Qntls.	The rates should be inclusive of all taxes , carriages, loading and unloading.

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Qazigund.

DIPK-8546/20

COURT ROAD FOOTBALL CLUB
Feroze: 9469118766 Khalid: 9419002491

The list of the new managing body is as follows:

S. NO.	NAME	DESIG.
01	IMTIYAZ AHMAD KHAN	CHAIRMAN
02	IMTIYAZ AHMAD WANI	VICE CHAIRMAN
03	KHALID IQBAL	MANAGER
04	GOWHAR AH. SHAH	GEN. SECRETARY
05	FEROZ AHMAD BEIGH	HEAD COACH
06	GULZAR AHMAD	ASSTT. COACH
07	AJAZ AHMAD	PHYSIO
08	MUSHTAQ AHMAD	ASST. MANAGER

Sd/- Chairman
Court Road Football Club

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar.
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
FRESH NIT No.64/E-Tender/Estates/2020-21 of 11/2020

Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory J&K, invites by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Approved Suppliers & Dealers with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Supplying, Testing and Commissioning of Wall Mount Split ACS Daikin make Including Allied Works for the Year 2020-21 to Estates Department Srinagar. (As and When Required)	200/-	10000/-	Financial year 2020-21	Approved Suppliers & Dealers

Position of AAA Submitted

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-10-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-10-2020(4:30 PM) to 11-11-2020 (4:00 PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	04-11-2020 (4:30 PM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	11-11-2020 (4.00 PM)
5.	No Hard copy is required but in case of any ambiguity found, the original documents may be demanded after opening of online tenders.	
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11-11-2020 (4.05 PM) In the Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of G.R to be remitted in Treasury under Major Head: 0216-Housing and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR/ B.G pledged to Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar. (tender receiving authority)

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bid

4. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-8523/20

No: XEN/EDS/2253-63/T-1
Dated: - 04-11-2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Estates Division, Sgr.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
19 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 29
ZUHR	12: 14
ASR	3:57
Magrib	5:38
ISHA	6:58

This Day In History

- 1918 - WWI: On the Western Front, Germany is now retreating as French and American troops cross the Meuse and move to take Sedan
- 1928 - Republican candidate Herbert Hoover is elected President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate Al Smith
- 1940 - Franklin Roosevelt re-elected US President
- 1945 - The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR-1 Fireball touches down
- 1949 - Greek civil war ends after 3 years with defeat of communist factions
- 1956 - Netherlands and Spain withdraw from Olympics in protest against Soviet actions in the Hungarian Revolution.
- 1967 - US launches Surveyor 6; makes soft landing on Moon Nov 9
- 1968 - Nixon elected 37th President of US, defeating Hubert Humphrey
- 1978 - Shah of Iran places Iran under military rule; General Gholan Reza Azhari forms government.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini takes over in Iran
- 1983 - Turkey Turgut Özals Moederland party wins elections
- 1985 - 22nd Space Shuttle Mission (61A) -Challenger 9- lands at Edwards AFB
- 1985 - M-19 guerrillas occupy Palace of Justice Bogota Colombia
- 1985 - Space shuttle Challenger lands at Edwards Air Force Base, California
- 1990 - Iran's oil-producing region suffers a serious earthquake
- 1995 - Israel buries Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir who opposed peace with Palestinians.
- 2001 - Crude oil for December delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) falls to a two-year low after OPEC members warn that a downward price spiral could occur if major non-OPEC oil exporters do not reduce oil production
- 2012 - Barack Obama is re-elected as US President, defeating Republican candidate Mitt Romney
- 2013 - 15 people are killed after a suicide bombing in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2016 - Indian government declares levels of air pollution in Delhi an emergency situation, closing schools and construction sites

From KO Archives

Taj Mahal vanishes under magic spell

Agencies

AGRA- The elegant 16th century embodiment of love, Taj Ma-hal, today had an altogether different date when noted magic wizard, P.C Sorcar junior, made it vanish.

Sorcar, master of the Indrajala magic snow, performed the feat at 1450 hours for over two minutes from a distance of about 400 metres behind Taj at a pot called Eachpura across the river Yamuna.

The mysterious entertainment, as Sorcar described it later, left hundreds of onlookers including policemen, administration officials and mediapersons absolutely stunned. The magic made the Mughal architectural marvel disappear in the thin air leaving a blank space at the site.

The magician was assisted by his daughter, Maneka, who made the historic monument reappear after two minutes. No it was not mass hypnotism, a jubilant Sorcar told PTI, adding on the contrary, it was a case of Application of 'Adrishya' (disap-pearance) Rasa' of the science of magic.

I just kept the Taj away from your eyes, it was a perfect illusion, the 53-year-old magician, whose late father had several in-credible feats to his credit, said. This was the junior Sorcar's first major performance since 1992 when he had made a running train disappear at Khana junction near Bardhaman in West Bengal.

Sorcar is also credited with having made Kolkata's famous victoria memorial vanish in 1990 and an aircraft at Hamamata in Japan.

I don't possess any supernatural powers. I perform with the blessings of God and goodwishes of the people, the magician,, who had challenged a famous godman of the south in the eight-ies, said. A beaming Sorcar, who says magic was in his blood since eight generations, maintained that there was nothing supernatural in his feat.

This is all science, the science of controlling the mind and the will-power to create a psychic balance with the environment, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, November 06, 2000)

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K O V I E W

Back to politics

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in an interview to a national daily, has said that the parties in J&K were free to engage in political activity and there was no proscription. He, however, added that it was up to these parties which direction their politics takes. Much of the new politics, according to him, was “unfortunate” and the government, he said, will see how it can change that. Sinha’s hint was probably about the alliance of the major J&K parties like the PDP and the National Conference along with four others including the national party CPI(M) which seeks the restoration of Article 370 that granted J&K its semi-autonomous status within the Indian Union. However, these parties have said that by seeking return of Article 370 they were not indulging in any anti-national activity but fighting for their constitutional rights.

That said, the LG Sinha’s assurance that his administration will facilitate the political activity in the union territory is welcome. This is important for Kashmir to have a semblance of normalcy. And Sinha being himself a politician would know the importance of a normal political activity to a society. Soon after taking over as the J&K LG three months ago, Sinha called Kashmir “a heaven of India”. He termed the August 5 an important date as “after years of isolation J&K came to mainstream”. More importantly, Sinha affirmed there won’t be any bias against anyone. He assured the people that their genuine grievances will be listened to and a way out found. And if the tweets he has issued since his takeover as the LG are anything to go by - one of which was about the Kashmiri pronunciation of the names of the local places - he was already trying to relate to people.

The past year has sadly been bereft of any political activity not only in the Valley but in Jammu too. The attempts to kickstart it have been frustrated, almost nipped in the bud. An administration headed earlier by a bureaucrat only further deepened this vacuum. This is where the stepping in of a politician LG is expected to make a redeeming difference. And to start with the LG can make the government more responsive to the grievances of the people as he himself has made it clear.

In the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, the Kashmir valley has seen revival of the political activity a year after the politicians across the mainstream-separatist divide were detained following the repeal of the region’s special status. Their activity is needed to fill in the political vacuum that has developed in the region over the last year.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Gold rush for a Covid vaccine

The arrival of a potent vaccine — several are being tested around the world — is likely to resolve the crisis brought about by the coronavirus. But it is also possible that significant challenges would remain even after a vaccine is found to tame the raging virus. Having examined existing purchasing agreements and production capacities, researchers at the Duke University Health Innovation Centre in the United States of America have stated that millions of people could lack reliable access to the drug in its early phase of roll-out. The reason for this shocking shortfall, unsurprisingly, is the embedded inequality of the global order. Economic muscle-flexing by high-income nations, it is feared, would lead to hoarding. Data bear out this anxiety. Canada, for instance, would have enough medicines to vaccinate its population five times over; the United Kingdom, just like the US, can do it twice over. At the other end of the spectrum lie India, Bangladesh and Egypt — populous nations that have the means to inoculate less than 30 per cent of their people. Other kinds of fault lines are also emerging. There is concern that inadequate infrastructure — modern cold chains — could adversely affect the distribution of the vaccine in rural areas in poorer nations.

The asymmetries reveal several urgencies. Greater investment must be made in avenues of international medical cooperation: the Covax initiative, facilitated by the World Health Organization and its alliance partners, is one platform that demands support from the international fraternity. India must ponder the urgent need to bolster indigenous research. The fruits of cutting-edge research facilities could reduce New Delhi’s reliance on a foreign vaccine. Finally, the skewed relationship between ethics and economics needs to be reset. A pandemic that has taken lakhs of lives should not be deemed as an occasion fit for monopoly and hoarding.

Telegraph India



No Sympathies for Belligerent Prime Time Anchors

SHEHLAT MAKNOON WANI

“If the freedom of expression is under attack in India, then Arnab Goswami has played a significant part in its regression. He is reaping the ills of an ecosystem which he architected.”

In May 2018, architect Anvay Naik and his mother were found dead in their bungalow. In a suicide note, Naik blamed Arnab Goswami and a couple of others for the non-payment of dues, which had forced him to take this step. Arnab Goswami had denied these allegations back then, and the case was also closed a year later. However, the case was recently opened, and on November 3, Arnab Goswami was arrested. Maharashtra Police took a cue from Arnab himself: they opened an old suicide case.

Videos shot by the staff members of Goswami showed him being dragged by the police. He repeatedly shouted while he was being pushed into the police van. Such drama is expected from someone who does it every night in his studio. However, this time it was real, and Arnab Goswami was the one being heckled and shoved. Many BJP leaders, including Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, condemned his arrest. Ironically, Yogi’s police recently arrested a journalist on charges of sedition and UAPA.

Freedom of expression is a right cherished by everyone. Who does not want to speak their mind without the fear of reprisals and consequences? As a student of journalism, I understand that my profession cannot operate without this right. But let me be blunt and say this: not everyone who sits in a studio and calls himself an editor is a journalist. In August 2019 — when Jammu and Kashmir was cut-off from the rest of the world and people were locked inside their homes — Arnab celebrated. It is worth mentioning that his Republic TV did not air a single ground report from Kashmir. Goswami also supported the BJP government when it arrested thousands of Kashmiris, including the pro-India leaders of Kashmir. For many weeks, the entire region remained under a strict day and night curfew with a total communication blockade. A content creator who celebrated

this inhuman siege, much less reported on it, should not expect sympathy from anyone.

Arnab Goswami has repeatedly targeted the “Lutyens” media and called for action against them for their “anti-national” activities. Arnab popularized terms like “Tukde Tukde Gang” and “Afzal Premi Gang” to target everyone who dissented against the BJP government. According to him, students at JNU were hatching conspiracies against India, and their counterparts in Jamia — who were brutalized by the police inside their campus — were all rioters. So, why should anyone lose sleep over his arrest? When has this person ever stood for

“Arnab took on an authoritarian state government on behalf of an equally repressive central government. His arrest is a part of an ugly fight between the BJP and Shiv Sena. He will soon be released owing to the support he enjoys, but journalists who were arrested in Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and elsewhere will continue to languish in jails. Kashmiri journalist Asif Sultan will remain in prison, serving the second year of his undeclared jail term. Siddique Kappan will have to face sedition and UAPA for trying to report on the Hathras rape case”

freedom of expression? The prime time anchor has single-handedly hounded numerous people into silence by running sustained campaigns against them. Who can forget how Republic TV reporters — armed with the R. marked red mics — surrounded Rhea Chakraborty asking her if she took drugs. It was Arnab Goswami’s Republic TV, which labeled activists like Sudha Bharadwaj, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Gautam Navlakha, and Varavara Rao as Urban Naxals; parroting the words spoken by Home Minister Amit Shah in his rallies and parliament addresses.

There is another reason why one should not feel sad or outraged with his arrest. Arnab Goswami has explicitly supported BJP and has targeted its critiques and opposition parties. His arrest

must not be seen as an attack on journalism or freedom of expression but on a spokesperson of the BJP. He has repeatedly dared Maharashtra CM Udhav Thackeray on his channel, and his arrest is directly linked to that. Although nobody should support the misuse of state machinery by any government, one must be cautious and not act belligerent before determining whose fight it is. Arnab took on an authoritarian state government on behalf of an equally repressive central government. His arrest is a part of an ugly fight between the BJP and Shiv Sena. He will soon be released owing to the support he enjoys, but journalists who were ar-

rested in Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and elsewhere will continue to languish in jails. Kashmiri journalist Asif Sultan will remain in prison, serving the second year of his undeclared jail term. Siddique Kappan will have to face sedition and UAPA for trying to report on the Hathras rape case. If the freedom of expression is under attack in India, then Arnab Goswami has played a significant part in its regression. He is reaping the ills of an ecosystem which he architected. The optimist in us can only hope that once he is released, he will stand for everyone’s free speech rights, regardless of their ideology.

The views expressed in this article are author’s own and do not necessarily represent that of Kashmir Observer.



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Need Effective Implementation of MSP for Farmers

Minimum support price is an important Indian agricultural policy which helps to incentivize farmers and ensures adequate food grains production in the country. Since the implementation of Farm Bill 2020, there has been apprehension of major threat to farmers who are losing their support price. Indian agriculture is mainly dependent on nature. Farmers have to face many hurdles in order to grow agricultural products. Uneven rainfall causing floods, droughts,

snowfall, farmer loans are the main reasons of farmer’s trouble. Whenever they grow little or surplus crops they get minimum benefits leading them to suicide. The Minimum Support Price is the price at which government buys food grains from farmers as per recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). If the farmer gets more price of the MSP they can sell with their utmost profit. The MSP is less than market price and greater than procurement price of commodity so that farmer gets

good price for the commodity.

There has been a dearth of FCI Go downs and lack of markets for poor farmers that enables them to sell their crops. The MSP centres are far away from village as it becomes difficult for the farmers to reach these centres. In the Mandi, the middleman used to buy these crops at a lower rate and sell them at a higher one. Several times farmers failed to get their price at MSP which led to increased farmer protests and suicides.

MSP should be implemented at

M.S Swaminathan’s report. Various crops which are outside the MSP must be monitored and various encouraging efforts should be regulated at regular intervals. There have been demands of bringing Potato and Onion at MSP. The slogan of ‘Jai Jawan, jai Kishan’ should have practical implementation. We must turn urgent attention towards farmer suicides.

Muneer Shamee
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The death of Muhammad (peace be upon him) was not adorned with the lightning of the sword, with streams of blood, with the neighing of horses, with heroic war cries and it is for this very reason that near-sighted eyes remain incapable of perceiving its beauty. How can the occasion of Muhammad's meeting with death be so simple? During (his last) this year, the signs of the end of life and the commencement of death were quite visible in the looks of the Prophet, in his speech, in his indefatigable social efforts, in his behavior and in his private life. Now the great commander of history, who has mobilized his grand army with the unceasing efforts of twenty-three years, has to assign new jobs to the future front of this army. This army is advancing to wage a war on a large scale. They are to fight everywhere, and at all times, with ignorance and the villainess of the soul, and wage war against the 'Caesars' and 'Khusrows' which rule the societies.

The wonderful prophetic mission of Muhammad has come to an end. The army is to be inspected for the last time. Whatever has been instructed during the span of twenty-three years is to be reviewed once again. A thorough and comprehensive inspection, an all embracing study of general issues, without ignoring a single detail is to be carried out, lest a single point remain untold and the things that are already mentioned remain unheeded. All these tasks are to be taken care of in advance before this (final) journey.

The eleventh year of the Hijrah has begun, and the fruitful life of Muhammad is coming to a close. The first job to do is to bid farewell to the people of Mecca, by the side of the Ka'bah. After the Tawaf, he performed two rak'ahs of prayer at the Place of Ibrahim (on the occasion of Hajat al- Weda'; the Last Pilgrimage.) Afterwards he kissed the Hajar al-Aswad (the Black Stone) for the second time, and immediately went towards Safa' and walked briskly (sa'y) between Safa' and Marwah. At this juncture, he made an announcement that those who had not brought sacrificial animals should perform 'Umrah (visitation or Lesser Hajj) and take off their ihram; (the pilgrim's dress). Many people hesitated, and expressed their unhappiness about it. The Prophet was so angered that his rage was expressed by his face. In a voice choked with anger, he ordered them to obey his command. He went to his tent in anger. Fearful and alarmed, Ayesha asked him who had made him so angry. Angriely he answered, "Why should I be not be angry when they do not obey my command?" One of his Companions came and saw the Prophet emotionally upset. He regretfully said: "O Prophet of God! May whoever has made you angry, be thrown into the fire by God." The Prophet said: "Did you not see that I commanded the people to do something and they disobeyed me? Had I known it, I too would not have brought the offering, and would have taken off my ihram as well."

The people came to know that the Prophet was very upset. They were ashamed of their behaviour and took off their ihrams immediately. Fatimah, his daughter, and all other women who had not brought offerings did the same.

History, the slave of the aristocracy, was again in bewilderment! What is it, as to why this king, who has more than one hundred thousand servants at his command, does not punish the transgressors. (There were approximately one hundred and several thousand men with him at the time of Hajat al-Weda'.) Where is the executioner? Why does he not issue a decree for their massacre? (History is accustomed to such practices. Instead he returns to his tent in anger and dismay!)

How does this king rule? How has he conquered the country? Is it possible to rule without being in possession of a thing like fine silk and saffron-colored objects?

"It is gold that inscribes the name of a king. And the other thing is a shining pearl from Yeman. But the state is captured with two things, One is silken and the other is saffron-colored."

One is the sword and the other is the gold coin. This king makes neither use of his sword, nor does he possess a treasure! How could he attain power?

Indeed, it is possible to do so. This uneducated fellow has come to teach people how to do it. What do the teaching institutions of Rome, Athens, Median, and those who are the products of the great Eastern and Western cultures know? They have never had any teachers other than jackals and foxes in their schools of politics.

Standing on the mount of 'Arafat, (Jabal al-Rahmah) the Prophet appointed some persons to repeat his words (one conveys the words to the other and he in turn to another) asks Rabi'ah to say: "O, people. the Prophet of God says, do you know which month this is?" (This is the last speech.) Rabi'ah repeats these words in a loud voice. The Prophet waits (in order to see his words are accurately communicated). People consider it their duty to answer, and they say: "This is the sacred (Haram) month." The Prophet continues: "Tell them that as long as you are in the presence of your God, God Almighty has consecrated your blood and your pos-



The Visage of Prophet Muhammad

DR ALI SHARIATI

sessions in the same way as He has consecrated this month." He asks Rabi'ah to say: "The Prophet of God asks you tell which month is this." Rabi'ah repeats and the Prophet waits and listens to him. Again the Prophet asks him to say. "What day is it?" Rabi'ah repeats his question and people say: "The day of the Greater Pilgrimage." He asks Rabi'ah to tell them: "God Almighty has consecrated your blood and your possessions as He has consecrated this day." The Prophet continues his speech in the same fashion: "O people, listen to my words, I may never see you again here. As long as you are in the vicinity of the House of God, your blood and your possessions are consecrated by God in the manner of this day and this month. You will shortly meet your God. He will take account of your deeds. I ask you to return whatever was entrusted to your custody. All kinds of usury is futile, but your capital belongs to you. Neither oppress anyone, nor tolerate any oppression. God has forbidden usury, and all usury money due to 'Abbas ibn' Abd al-Muttalib is null and void (first he gives an account of his own family members then....). Every murder committed in

It is a tragic record of history, and the fate of 'Ali and his associates is the most tragic of all. There never existed such a big disparity between an individual and the society to which he belonged.

There is doubt that the Prophet had an intense feeling for 'Ali in his heart of hearts. In various ways he revealed his special liking for 'Ali. But he also knew full well that the elite of the Umamah would not easily accept the leadership of this young man a little older than thirty years, who had no refuge in the society except that of Muhammad's love and had no wealth whatsoever except his sacrifices for Islam.

They have come ten miles away from Mecca. The Prophet has made up his mind. It is the place called Ghadir Khom. The episode (of Ghadir e Khom) is known to all.

The headache has started. The Prophet cannot sleep at night. He feels the steps of death approaching and sees the black clouds gathering on the horizon with alarming speed. It is midnight and the stillness is dreadful. The sorrow and distress that could never disturb his energetic soul during a life full of hazards and risks, has overcome his spirit.

for tears had blurred their vision. Abu Bakr felt the gravity of the situation and wept loudly. With his tearful eyes fixed on his honored friend's face, he said in a voice trembling with love and grief: "Be our lives and our children's lives ransomed for you." The Prophet said: "Calm yourself, Abu Bakr."

The atmosphere of the mosque was loaded and charged with excitement and grief. Grief and anxiety had gripped the people so tightly that no one could utter a single word. The Prophet continued again: "O people go continue the task assigned to you under the command of Usama. I swear by my life that whatever you said regarding the commandership of Usama, you said about the commandership of his father also, whereas Usama is fully qualified to command you, just as his father deserved this position."

In the meantime, he was again alarmed by dangers which had threatened his people. He continued. "Last night I dreamed that both of my hands were fastened by two golden handcuffs, which distressed me. I cast a spell over them and they disappeared. I called those two (the false claimants to prophet hood) the liars of Yamamah

It seemed as if his job with the people was not yet finished. What he required the people to do was not just an ethical formality, but it was such a serious affair that it kept even death away for a few moments. After repeating his request he kept silent, glancing at the people with tired and feverish eyes, expectantly The people felt that they were compelled to say something in answer; but what to say? They did not know

the days of heathenism (Jahiliyyah) is not accountable and the first murder I pardon is the murder of ibn Rabi'ah ibn Harith ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib (for which I am a legitimate claimant).

The last great task assigned to him is at last completed. Today, the greatest of all men in history, who has accomplished the greatest of all the prophetic missions successfully, is to bid adieu to his city for ever, so that he may die in peace with a calm conscience and a sense of fulfillment among his faithful Companions in Madinah.

Throughout the course of twenty-three years, since Muhammad launched his movement in the spiritual realm as well as society, Ali was always distinguishable from others. He always dwelt in the midst of dangers and did not waver even once. He never once showed the slightest signs of weakness during his whole life. What distinguishes 'Ali more than any other thing is his multi-dimensional personality, the spirit that surpasses all other heroes in all its diverse dimensions. He is a hero in the realm of thought as well as a hero on the battlefield. His capacity to love is great, equally at ease under the niche of a mosque or among people. A man who loves aloofness, yet is active in politics. The greatest enemy of all the forms of lewdness which cause human suffering. The embodiment of all the sublime aspirations that have been cherished by human hearts throughout the ages.

But, it is quite obvious that in a society which is separated by only ten years from the heathen Bedouin and tribal epoch, how alienated, how strange and unknown such a soul may find itself.

He notifies Abu Muwayhibah, Khadijah's slave and he comes out of his quarters to attend to him. The loneliness of the Prophet is noticeable. From the height of his power and glory he calls on a slave to accompany him on his last visit to the graveyard. It is a warm summer night at the end of the month of Safar or early Rabi' al-Awwal. The slowly and softly flowing breeze awakens bitter memories and stirs his thoughts. He turns to the slave and says: O, Abu Muwayhibah, let us go, for I have been commanded to go and pray forgiveness for the dwellers of Baqi'. Both of them start walking and leave the city. He glances a moment and then begins speaking. The graves listen to him. "Peace be on you, o, inhabitants of the graveyard. Rest here undisturbed. Your days are better satisfied than the days of those who are left behind. (Nothing has happened. Why is the Prophet who has never been at the zenith of his success as he is today, so perturbed?) Calamities are pursuing us like the dark patches of night".

They returned home.

Then, with his face burning with fever and the head bound in a cloth, he went to the mosque. Fadl helped him to sit on the pulpit. The people gathered around him, and he began to speak. He asked forgiveness for them and pronounced benedictions for them repeatedly. Afterwards he said: "From among His slaves, God has chosen one and blessed him with the freedom to choose between what belongs to this world and what takes him to the Lord's presence, and he chose the latter." He pauses. The people could not see him with clear eyes,

and Yaman".

He stopped speaking. He felt exhausted. The people could see that he was trying hard to speak to them again, but in vain. He writhed in pain and was unable to suppress his agony. This was his last meeting with the people. He should bid adieu to the people and to the mosque. Life will not offer another opportunity. Everything has come to an end. His association with the people has reached its finale. He should say farewell to the people and descend the pulpit forever, for death is awaiting him at Ayesha's house. But, as if he has something to tell the people in the last moments of his life, he collects all his remaining energy with great effort, in order to say something.

Even the Munafiqun (the hypocrites) were visibly touched. People hung their heads in grief. Their sense of grief was too great to be relieved by tears. Muhammad starts. Words come out of his feverish lips with great difficulty. Never has an individual said something with such a painful effort. He has to ask a certain question from the people, without asking which he will not find peace. "O men. I praise God, except whom there is no god, in front of you. Anybody whom I owe something must come forward. If I have caused anyone of you to be unjustly scourged, I have my own back to the lash of retaliation. If I have reviled anyone, he should come and proclaim my fault before this congregation. I have never had the spirit of a policeman, rather, I despised it. Verily, the most loveable among you is he who claims anything I owe to him, or who willingly declares to forgive me, so

that I may be able to greet my God with a satisfied conscience. It appears that this request of mine is not enough and it is necessary to stand up and repeat it several times."

It seemed as if his job with the people was not yet finished. What he required the people to do was not just an ethical formality, but it was such a serious affair that it kept even death away for a few moments. After repeating his request he kept silent, glancing at the people with tired and feverish eyes, expectantly The people felt that they were compelled to say something in answer; but what to say? They did not know. He had devoted his entire life to the welfare of the people. He imbued these Bedouin people with a sense of civility and honor. He spent Khadijah's enormous wealth also for their sake. He did not lead a life that prospered by taking the rights of others nor did he ever allow himself to oppress anyone. He was himself the model of a Muslim, a Muslim whose face God portrayed with two bold strokes of his pen:

"They are firm with infidels, and compassionate among themselves." He had never caused sorrow or pain to anybody. Only once he vented his anger upon a rude Bedouin who was riding along him neck to neck, and was riding in such a savage manner that his horse collided with Muhammad's horse repeatedly causing severe pain to his foot; he lashed him with the whip, asking him angrily to keep a distance. When he reached Madinah he called him and apologized to him and paid him as a penalty eighty she goats. Now he has forgotten if he has injured someone or owes anyone something. But he still fears that in the course of his eventful life he might have behaved with someone rudely and is oblivious of it.

Muhammad is waiting and the people are ashamed of themselves. No one dared look in his eyes to be confronted with his expecting looks. All hung their heads and their shoulders trembled. The question posed by Muhammad was too difficult to be answered. An Arab got up and said: "O, Prophet of God, you owe me three dirhams." (It was a strange society.) Some of the people could not bear it and they wept. Muhammad immediately asked Fadl to pay him his due. Fadl ib 'Abbas paid him three dirhams and the Arab sat down. An uneasy painful calm fell on the atmosphere of the mosque. (The people were extremely ashamed of this man's act.) The Prophet felt that this act on the part of the man who caused shame to the Prophet in front of the congregation had disturbed the people, and he said: "O, People. Whoever owes anything to anyone should repay his debt and should not feel humiliated in this world, for it is easier to be ashamed here than on the Day of the Judgment."

Another Arab arose and said: "O, Prophet of God, I have three dirhams that I must give in the way of God." The Prophet asked him: "Why did you promise it?" He replied: "I was destitute at that time." The Prophet asked Fadl to collect the amount from him. Another man arose, he directly looked in the Prophet's eyes, while trembling with excitement. He said: "O Prophet of God, you lashed me across my abdomen in such and such a battle!" Suddenly silence falls on the audience, and hearts are torn to pieces. All had become stunned. No one had the courage to raise his head. With a calm face, the Prophet lifted his shirt that was drenched with sweat and bared his abdomen to the chest. He asked the man to come forward, and the people had dropped their heads on their knees in anguish. A painful moment passed. Suddenly a painful cry pierced the charged atmosphere and the mosque underwent a tremor. The people raised their heads and saw that the man had thrown himself on the bare chest of the Prophet and was kissing the place he wanted to lash in a state of frenzy. Everyone was overcome by streaming tears. The people who were feeling ashamed in front of the Prophet now had a sense of exultation. The passions of adoration and love had wiped off the shameful memories. The people were hilarious that they had expressed their love and respect for the Prophet (S), and the Prophet who himself loved his people intensely and who knew at the moment that he would not be able again to express his pure love for his brothers, made an amazing suggestion at a critical juncture. (This is also a sign of the Prophet's humility that at that time when he could not do anything for them, he still wished to do something that could benefit them.) He suggested: "There is no eye in the world which comes to know the positive qualities of a beautiful soul, and remains untouched by tears. O, people! Anyone who is afraid for himself and has any infirmities should stand up, so that I may pray for him."

He came down from the pulpit, and stepped forward with the intention of leaving the mosque. Suddenly he stopped and turned towards the people, saying, "O party of the Emigrants! (Muhajirun) I recommend you to be good with the Helpers (Ansar) The people will increase in number, but the Helpers will always remain what they have been"

Shariati

Your favorite music can send your brain into pleasure overload

Agencies

We all know when our favourite song is played in a car or at a concert, it fills us with pleasurable emotion, gives us joyful memories and even send a shiver or chill down to our spine.

About half of people get chills when listening to music. Neuroscientists based in France have now used electroencephalogram (EEG) to link chills to multiple brain regions involved in activating reward and pleasure systems.

The results were published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*.

Thibault Chabin and colleagues at the Universite de Bourgogne Franche-Comte in Besancon EEG-scanned the brains of 18 French participants who regularly experience chills when listening to their favourite musical pieces. In a questionnaire, they were asked to indicate when they experienced chills, and rate their degree of pleasure from them.

"Participants of our study were able to precisely indicate "chill-producing" moments in the songs, but most musical chills occurred in many parts of the extracts and not only in the predicted moments," said Chabin.

When the participants experienced a chill, Chabin saw specific electrical activity in the orbitofrontal cortex (a region involved in emotional processing), the supplementary motor area (a mid-brain region involved in movement control) and the right temporal lobe (a region on the right side of the brain involved in auditory processing and musical appreciation). These regions work together to process music, trigger the brain's reward systems, and release dopamine -- a "feel-good" hormone and neurotransmitter. Combined with the pleasurable anticipation of your favourite part of the song, this produces the tingly chill you experience -- a physiological response thought to indicate greater cortical connectivity.



"The fact that we can measure this phenomenon with EEG brings opportunities for study in other contexts, in scenarios that are more natural and within groups," Chabin commented. "This represents a good perspective for musical emotion research."

EEG is a non-invasive, highly accurate technique that scans for electrical currents caused by brain activity using sensors placed across the surface of the scalp. When experiencing musical chills, low frequency electrical signals called 'theta activity' -- a type of activity associated with successful memory performance in the context of high rewards and musical appreciation -- either increase or decrease in the brain regions that are involved in musical processing.



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ADMISSION (SELECTION) NOTIFICATION NO. 04 OF 2020

The candidates bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected for admission to various programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21 on the basis of the selection procedure notified in Admission Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated: 21-08-2020.

M. Sc Statistics: OM: 203553, 203637, 201188, 201715, 203984, 204162, 201716, 204074, 204540, 203189, 204379, 201509 **RBA:** 203280, 201155 **WUPSC:** 202346 **WAITING: OM:** 201451, 203455, 204496, 203508, 201499, 204056, 201847, 201596, 204539 **RBA:** 201691, 204474, 204050, 204317 **WUPSC:** 202790

M. Tech Food Technology: OM: 202433, 203336, 203242, 201243 **RBA:** 204760 **WAITING OM:** 201088, 204529, 201250, 202104

MA English Language & Literature: OM: 200547, 200204, 202218, 204216, 200640, 203045, 203572, 201178, 204051, 204645, 204024, 204412, 200651, 201550, 204664, 202185, 202587, 201939, 204638, 202877, 204349, 202257, 201650, 204426 **SC/ST/GJB:** 203180 **RBA:** 204489, 204425, 204777, 203934 **WUPSC:** 204393 **PH:** 204060 **CDPP:** 200513 **WAITING: OM:** 204415, 202047, 200043, 203279, 203499, 203293, 202936, 204387, 201562, 204431, 200370, 201465, 201661, 203306, 200413, 204764, 204372 **RBA:** 203186, 204471, 201082, 204408, 204344, 204576, 200415 **CDPP:** 203276, 201273, 201905

B.TECH. LATERAL ENTRY

Civil Engineering: OM: 204625, 204571, 204533 **Internal:** 204518, 204574 **WAITING: OM:** 201351, 204535, 202181 **Internal:** 204610, 204730, 204635, 204643

Electrical Engineering: OM: 204620, 204513, 204657 **Internal:** 204614, 204665 **WAITING: OM:** 201411, 201599, 204561, 200679 **Internal:** 201793, 200985, 200219, 203621

Computer Science & Engineering: OM: 204594, 204522, 204685, 200833, 204520 **WAITING: OM:** 204585, 204672, 204550, 204631, 204732, 204628, 203444

Electronics & Communication Engineering: OM: 204477, 204587, 204473, 203962, 200075 **WAITING: OM:** 204740, 204475, 200362, 204592, 201299, 200121, 204586

Mechanical Engineering: OM: 204582, 202086, 204637 **Internal:** 204604 **WAITING: OM:** 201993, 201722, 204484, 201553, 201360, 204679, 200930, 204611

Food Technology: OM: 203569, 204568, 201941, 201486

THREE YEAR POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA

Civil Engineering: OM: 200156, 204186, 204772, 200663, 200208, 200207, 200271, 200685, 201950, 204138, 200830, 200316, 203214, 201356, 200447, 201157, 201728, 201289, 201033, 200302, 201026, 201019, 201031, 204006, 203233, 203979, 201027, 202881, 202436, 204355, 202440, 204013, 200212, 202061, 203704

Electrical Engineering: OM: 203400, 204351, 201468, 204776, 200459, 202306

Mechanical Engineering: OM: 201982, 203391, 201952, 200625, 200829, 203113, 203965, 203597, 204038, 202900

POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA LATERAL ENTRY

Electrical Engineering: OM: 203865, 200462, 203899, 202298

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The selection of the candidates is strictly provisional and subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria as determined and fixed by the university and production/verification of the original documents/valid category certificate(s) wherever applicable. In case of any discrepancy found at any point of time, the University reserves the right to cancel/modify such selection/admission without assigning any reason thereof.
- Provisionally selected candidates are hereby informed to report to the **office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **16-11-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** alongwith application form/ original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020 for completion of admission formalities. In case any candidate fails to report within the stipulated time, the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate in order of merit and preference.
- The candidates in the Waiting List (s) are advised to register their interest online for admission in case of any available vacancy (ies) by or before 16-11-2020 by clicking on the tab (**Submit Waiting Form**) in admission portal available on University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in. Once the form is submitted, take a print out of the waiting confirmation letter for records. Candidates need not to deposit any fee for waiting form. In case any candidate amongst the waiting list fails to register his/her interest online, his/her candidature for selection shall not be considered and the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate as per the merit and preference.
- The Provisional Merit List (s) of the programmes as mentioned above are available on the University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

Admission under Self Financing Category / NRI Sponsored Quota:

For Self-Financing Category: The eligible candidate(s) whose name is shown in the Merit List and are desirous to apply under **Self Financing Category** may apply online by or before 16-11-2020 .The students can apply by clicking on the tab (**Apply For Payment Seat**) in admission portal available on University website and deposit fee of **Rs 500/-** (non-refundable) either online or offline at any branch of J&K Bank Ltd against a print out of the auto-generated pay-in-slip. They need not to submit the hard copies of their Self Financing Application Form and Fee Receipt to the University at this point of Time, however, the original Fee receipt may be required later for admission purposes if the candidate is selected.

For NRI Sponsored Quota: The eligible candidate(s) desirous to apply under **NRI Sponsored Quota** are advised to submit application in the **Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **16-11-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** alongwith application fee of Rs. 500/- and copy (ies) of required NRI Sponsored documents as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020. The candidates who have not applied earlier can also apply under this quota.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/648

Dated: 05-11-2020

(Errors & Omissions Excepted)-

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar Academics

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HORTICULTURE P&M CONST.DIV.SGR.

CANCELLATION.

e- Nit 29 of 2020-21 issued vide EE/Horti/P&M/2020-21/3484-86dated 31-10-2020. Stands cancelled due to error in Critical Dates and will be uploaded soon.

No: -EE/Horti/2020-21/3506

Dated: - 04-11-2020.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Horticulture (P&M)
Srinagar.

DIPK-8560/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory

Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Tel: 0194-2497056Email: xenmds@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/ 112 ; DATE: - 03.11.2020

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/= revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory from registered firms/Contractors for:-

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion	Position of Funds
Development of area around Borewell at Field Sub Division Office Budgam.	96,000/-	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 200/-	7 days	Capex Approved Funds Awaited
Date of sale of tender documents	04 -11-2020 to 12 -11-2020 (up to 4.00 pm)				
Last date of receipt of tenders	13 -11-2020 (up to 2.00 pm)				
Date of opening of tenders	13 -11-2020				
Tender receiving & opening authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar				

The Tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or cash payment. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

- Self attested copy of Certificate of GST Registration.
- Self attested copy of valid "DEE" class registration card.
- Application for issuance of Tender Document from the firm duly signed and stamped by the Proprietor, however, in case the Proprietor of the firm wishes to purchase the tender document through his representative , a valid authorization letter duly signed and stamped by the proprietor shall be produced prior to purchase of the document.

In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a non-working day due to any reasons, the tenders shall be received in this office on next working day.

NO: MDS/TS / 4583-87
Date: 03 -11-2020

DIPK-8473/20

Sd/= (Er. Abdul Rashid Bhat)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Tel: - 0194-2416178

email: exengineer12@gmail.com

Extension Notice-2

Subject: - Extension of dates for e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/23 of 2020-21 Dated: 03-10-2020, Replacement of Wooden/Undersized Poles with Steel Tubular poles of Various 33 KV Lines of District Bandipora under Barbed Wire Scheme in respect of STD Ganderbal Due to the poor response to above quoted NIT the dates are hereby extended as per details given below: -

S.No	Bid Submission End date	Technical Bid Opening date	Financial Bid Opening date
01	11-11-2020 04.00PM	12-11-2020 02.00 PM	Will be communicated to qualified bidders

Tender ID No: - 2020_PDD_106062_1

No:-STD/GBL/Ts/1960-63
Dated: -03-11-2020

DIPK-NB-3503/20

Executive Engineer
STD Ganderbal.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division Pulwama Kashmir

Subject: - Extension Notice to e-NIT Nos. O&M/Pul/37 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020.
• O&M/Pul/38 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020
• O&M/Pul/39 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020 &
• O&M/Pul/40 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020

In view of poor response to the above subjected e-NIT's, the critical dates of submission of e-bids are extended as per below time line.

E Nit No. and date	Tender ID	Date of down load of tender document (Extended)	Last date of uploading ebids (extended)	Date of opening of technical bids (Extended)
O&M/Pul/37 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020	2020_PDD_107622_1	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	11.11.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/38 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020	2020_PDD_107627_1	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	11.11.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/39 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020	2020_PDD_107642_1	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	11.11.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/40 of 2020-21 dated 23.10.2020	2020_PDD_107645_1	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	Up to 09.11.2020 (15:00 hrs)	11.11.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority

No. O&M/Pul/

Dated 02.11.2020

DIPK-NB-3499/20

---sd---
Executive Engineer
O&M Division Pulwama

Afghan violence jumps 50 percent amid peace talks: Watchdog

Agencies

Kabul: Violent attacks in Afghanistan have surged by 50 percent over recent months, even as the Kabul government and the Taliban launched unprecedented peace talks in September, a US watchdog warned on Thursday.

Despite brief lulls provided by two temporary ceasefires over the summer, fighting has raged across the country as the Taliban launched devastating attacks on provincial capitals and security installations, with fears the violence may jeopardise negotiations.

Attacks against Afghan forces and civilians were 50 percent higher in the three months to the end of September when compared to the previous quarter, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said in its quarterly report to the US Congress.

"Overall enemy-initiated attacks this quarter were also characterized as 'above seasonal norms'," the report added.

The watchdog reported 2,561 civilian casualties this quarter, including 876 deaths, up 43 percent from the April to June period.

The report's publication comes as scattered calls to boycott the ongoing peace talks have been raised following back-to-back attacks on education centres in Kabul claimed

by ISIL, but which some government officials insist were carried out by the Taliban.

Earlier this week, at least 22 students were killed in Kabul University in an attack claimed by ISIL.

Little progress has been made in meetings between Afghan government negotiators and the Taliban since the talks started on September 12, with negotiations stalled over the basic framework of talks and an agenda still undecided.

Both sides have routinely accused each other of upping hostilities and killing civilians.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the US envoy who negotiated a separate deal with the Taliban in February, has repeatedly warned that "continued high levels of violence can threaten the peace process and the agreement and the core understanding that there is no military solution" to the Afghan conflict.

US influence over Afghanistan's battlegrounds is on the wane, however, with the Pentagon looking to withdraw all its troops that remain in the country by next May.

Confusion over the ongoing US election vote count has raised further questions over whether Washington's withdrawal from Afghanistan after 19 years of war will continue on schedule or accelerate if Trump clinches another term in the White House.



As Trump disputes US elections, protests spill out in major cities

Agencies

Washington: On Thursday, Oregon governor Kate Brown announced the activation of the state's National Guard in response to "widespread violence" in Portland, USA Today reported. Protests were reported across the US post-elections. After President Donald Trump's electoral leads in battleground states slowly slipped under his feet, he has been claiming that the election has been stolen from him. He has moved legally to stop counting in several key states.

"Stop the Steal" was a consistent slogan in many protests. LA Times reported that dozens of angry Trump supporters converged on vote-counting centers in Detroit and Phoenix as the returns went against him in the two key states, while thousands of anti-Trump protesters demanding a complete tally of the ballots in the still-undecided election took to the streets in cities across the US. Trump supporters gathered in Nevada and elections build-

ings in Arizona (which Biden is leading in).

On the other hand, Biden-supporting "Count Every Vote" protestors gathered in Chicago, New York and Detroit.

As Milan Sime Martinic wrote in THE WEEK, anxiety over what happens if Trump tells his supporters that the election was a hoax has cities like Madison in Wisconsin preparing for uncontrollable acts of god. Washington, San Francisco and New York, all reported boarded-up stores. Blocks and blocks of Washington are behind plywood, and people are being told to stock up on food.

Raising the spectre of a possible election dispute, the Trump campaign announced it has filed lawsuits on Wednesday in Pennsylvania and Michigan, laying the groundwork for contesting the outcome in undecided battleground states that could determine whether President Donald Trump gets another four years in the White House.

Multiple US networks had called Wisconsin and Michigan, both key battleground

states, in favour of Biden. Both these states were crucial in the Trump victory in 2016. Other key states like Arizona also seem to be firmly edging towards Biden, narrowing Trump's possible victory path. As things stand, Trump needs to win both Michigan and Pennsylvania to have any chance of winning the presidency; if Michigan is gone, the path is essentially shut out.

The Trump campaign filed suits in both states, demanding better access for campaign observers to locations where ballots are being processed and counted, the campaign said. The campaign also is seeking to intervene in a Pennsylvania case at the Supreme Court that deals with whether ballots received up to three days after the election can be counted. The campaign said it is calling for a temporary halt in the counting in both states until it is given "meaningful" access in numerous locations and allowed to review ballots that already have been opened and processed.

France fighting Islamist extremism, not Islam: Macron

Agencies

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has said his country is fighting "Islamist separatism, never Islam", responding to a Financial Times article that he claimed misquoted him and has since been removed from the newspaper's website.

In a letter to the editor published on Wednesday, Macron said the British paper had accused him of "stigmatising French Muslims for electoral purposes and of fostering a climate of fear and suspicion towards them".

"I will not allow anybody to claim that France, or its gov-

ernment, is fostering racism against Muslims," he said.

An opinion article written by a Financial Times correspondent published on Tuesday alleged that Macron's condemnation of "Islamic separatism" risked fostering a "hostile environment" for French Muslims.

The article was later removed from the paper's website, replaced with a notice saying it had "contained factual

errors". The French president sparked protests across the Muslim world after last month's murder of teacher Samuel Paty — who had shown his class a blasphemous sketch of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) — by saying France would never renounce its laws permitting blasphemous caricatures. Islam forbids depictions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Following the protests and boycotts of French goods across the world, Macron told the Al-Jazeera network over the weekend that he understood the caricatures could be



shocking for some.

But recounting a wave of Islamist attacks in France since 2015, Macron warned in his letter this week that there were still "breeding grounds" for extremism in France.

"In certain districts and on the internet, groups linked to radical Islam are teaching hatred of the republic to our children, calling on them to disregard its laws," he wrote.

Dutch To Cull 200,000 Chickens After Bird Flu Detected In East Of Country



Agencies

AMSTERDAM, Nov 5 (Reuters) - The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture on Thursday ordered the culling of 200,000 chickens after highly pathogenic bird flu was found at a farm in the eastern town of Puiflijk.

The cull, which includes birds at a second farm within a 1km radius, is the second in the country within a month after the H5N8 disease was first found in wild fowl.

Risk to humans from the disease is considered low, but the World Health Organization says it has been spreading among migratory birds that then transmit it to domestic poultry.

Britain on Monday ordered a cull of 13,000 birds at a farm in Frodsham, Cheshire, after detecting cases there.

Dutch poultry farmers have been ordered to keep birds inside until further notice to prevent transmission.

The farm at the centre of Thursday's cull in Puiflijk is within 3 km of the first case, 30 km from the German border near Nijmegen. Other farms nearby are being tested for the disease, while transportation of birds is banned in a 10 km radius.

Poultry is a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.9 billion) industry in the Netherlands, Europe's largest exporter of chicken meat and eggs, employing 10,000 people on 2,000 farms.

Saudi Removes Controversial Restrictions On Foreign Workers

Agencies

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will remove several controversial restrictions on foreign workers in a labor policy overhaul that officials hope will attract

interview Wednesday.

The new rules will come into effect on March 14 and apply to all foreign workers in the private sector, regardless of salary, he said.

The changes could have a



overseas talent and reduce citizen unemployment.

Non-Saudis will no longer need their employer's permission to change jobs, travel abroad or leave the country permanently, according to Sattam Alharbi, a deputy minister at the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

"Runaway" reports that employers can file against foreign workers who stop showing up to their jobs — effectively rendering them fugitives — will be abolished and replaced with a procedure for ending their contract, Alharbi said in an in-

terview Wednesday. The new rules will come into effect on March 14 and apply to all foreign workers in the private sector, regardless of salary, he said.

The changes could have a dramatic impact on Saudi Arabia's labor market and the lives of the 10.5 million foreign workers who make up about a third of the kingdom's population. The current "kafala" or "sponsorship" system — used for expatriates in Gulf Arab countries for decades — has been criticized by human rights groups as a form of indentured servitude. Economists say it also entrenches a practice of companies hiring cheaper and more easily-exploitable foreign workers, even as Saudi unemployment rises.

Dollar loses ground as Biden inches closer to White House

Agencies

Washington: The dollar slipped to its weakest level in more than two years against the yuan and eased against other Asian currencies as Democrat Joe Biden edged closer to the White House in a nail-biting US presidential election.

Financial markets, however, were braced for days or even weeks of uncertainty as Republican incumbent President Donald Trump has opened a multi-pronged attack on vote counts in several states by pursuing lawsuits and a recount.

That could hamper the dollar in the short run, traders say.

Elsewhere, sterling fell against the dollar and the euro after a media report that

the Bank of England, which announces a policy decision later on Thursday, is considering negative interest rates.

The Federal Reserve, which is expected to keep policy on hold on Thursday, is also in focus as traders navigate market volatility in the wake of a knife-edge US election that has pushed up the yuan and the Mexican peso.

Biden has claimed the pivotal Midwestern states of Wisconsin and Michigan. Late reporting showed the former vice president with a lead in Nevada and Arizona, while Trump held a lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Expectations that a Biden administration would strike a slightly softer tone on trade policy is likely to weaken the dollar against the currencies

of countries that often faced the threat of tariffs during Trump's administration, analysts said.

"The moves in the yuan and the peso show that the market is trying to price in a Biden victory," said Masafumi Yamamoto, chief currency strategist at Mizuho Securities in Tokyo.

"For slightly different reasons, we could also see the euro gain against the dollar."

The onshore yuan briefly rose to over a two-year high of 6.6381 per dollar, extending its recent gains as China's currency has become a popular trade to bet on a Biden victory.

Emerging market currencies such as the Malaysian ringgit and the Indonesian rupiah also rose against the greenback.

Trump's spiritual advisor hosts bizarre prayer service

Results of the US Presidential Elections are yet to be announced and it looks like it is going to be a tight race to the White House. After more than 24 hours of counting votes, we know that Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden is in the lead. And while the Trump campaign sues states for still counting votes, his spiritual guide Paula White led an impassioned prayer service to secure Trump's reelection.

The video in which White is heard saying, "Angels are being dispatched right now," has gone viral.

"I hear a sound of victory. The Lord says it is done. For I hear, victory, victory, victory!" White can be heard saying in the video. The service took a turn for the bizarre as White referred to



the Democrats as 'demonic confederacies' that are trying to steal the election from Trump.

Clips from the prayer service were shared by Twitter handle of Right-wing Watch.

Paula White battles the "demonic confederacies" that are attempting to steal

the election from Trump. pic.twitter.com/Bt3B-JOkJIV

—Right Wing Watch (@RightWingWatch) November 5, 2020

The Trump campaign is filing a lawsuit to stop vote counting in Georgia, "President Trump and his team are fighting for the good of the nation to uphold the rule

of law, and Georgia's law is very clear: to legally count, mail ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. That's still the law, even after Democrats sued earlier this year to extend the deadline and delay Election Day—President Trump and Republicans fought to uphold Georgia law, and we won," Trump Deputy Campaign Manager Justin Clark said.

White's prayer service received some hilarious reactions on Twitter: "Not giving you victory, I despise televangelist con artists," tweeted @thegoodgodabove. Another user tweeted, "When you're trying to get the ballpoint pen at the bank to work," making fun of her impassioned gesticulating. Yet another user wrote, "It's the way that her racist ancestors are speaking directly through her."

Indian-origin millionaire Thanedar elected to Michigan state legislature in US

Shri Thanedar, an Indian-origin Democrat millionaire who ran for governor two years ago, has been elected to the House of Representatives in Michigan with 93 per cent votes.

Thanedar, 65, the scientist and businessman, raised a record-breaking \$438,620, primarily from his own wealth, in the state House primary against six other opponents.

The former gubernatorial hopeful cashed in on his high name familiarity after he moved from Ann Arbor to Detroit after losing the 2018 primary. His campaign two years ago featured a heavy dose of "Shri for We" television ads.

He won from the 3rd district of Michigan with 93 per cent of the total votes.

Thanedar had spent almost \$10 million of his own fortune to finish third behind Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Abdul



El Sayed in the 2018 gubernatorial primary, but he won the most votes in Detroit.

Originally from Karnataka's Belgaum, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at 18 and master's degree from University of Bombay. Later, he migrated to the US in 1979 to pursue higher studies from University of Akron and later University of Michigan.

Thanedar told the media in a recent interview that he began campaigning last fall prior to the pandemic and has spent

time during the outbreak passing out masks, hand sanitiser and door knockers.

He said that he wants to tackle a long list of challenges plaguing his district, including blight, water shutoffs, foreclosures, crime and unemployment.

"I'm seeing people have no hope. Conditions are really bad and nothing has changed in years. People are disenfranchised. I've slept and ate on the floor, with no running water," Thanedar said, referring to his upbringing in India.

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