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Attractive food might seem healthier to consumers, suggest the findings of ...

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Chillai Kalan is the most severe part of the winter in Kashmir consisting of three months. It is divided into three parts called the Chillas: The Chillai Kalan, the Chillai Khurd ...



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Kashmir Working Journalists Association (KWJA) is dismayed over the criminal ...



Wisdom Quote!
“Where wisdom reigns, there is no conflict between thinking and feeling.”
— Carl Gustav Jung

news DIGEST

Teen Student Goes Missing From Seminary

BANDIPORA: A teenage student has gone missing from a seminary in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, reports said Monday.

Local sources told KNT that the in charge of a seminary namely Madrasa Islamia Arabia reported that a

16-year-old student Qaiser Ahmad Gagi, a resident of Wani Durusa Sogam Kupwara left school on December 19 and did not return till date and is missing since then, news agency KNT reported. The disappearance of the student has been reported by in-charge of the seminary Madrasa Islamia Arabia located in Ongam village of the district.

A missing report has been lodged at concerned police station, the report added.

Woman Found Dead Near Wular Park

BANDIPORA: A woman was found dead on Monday under 'mysterious circumstances' in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The woman (name withheld) was found dead under mysterious circumstances near the Wular Vintage Park in Saderkoot Payeen, news agency KNS reported Monday. The woman, the report said, had strained relationship with her in-laws.

Quoting an unnamed official, the report said that during initial investigations police didn't find any clue behind the death.

"The body has been taken for medico-legal formalities. A case under relevant sections of law stands registered and once the finds of post mortem comes to fore, everything

Power Cuts Trigger Protests In Sumbal

Bandipora: Irked by long power cuts, residents of Sumbal area of Bandipora district on Monday held protests against Power Development Department (PDD) and disrupted traffic movement on Sumbal-Hajin road for hours together.

The protesters said that for past several weeks the unscheduled and long power cuts in Sumbal and its adjacent areas have been giving tough time to the people, news agency KNT reported Monday.

Ladakh Records Nine New Covid-19 Cases

LEH: Nine fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Ladakh where 78 patients recovered from the infection during the past 24 hours, bringing down the number of active cases in the union territory to 355, officials said on Monday.

Ladakh had recorded a total of 9,279 virus case load since the outbreak of the pandemic in March, out of which 124 patients, including 81 in Leh and 43 in Kargil, have succumbed to the infection.

All the nine new cases surfaced in Leh district, which had of late witnessed a surge in the positive cases, the officials said.

With the recovery of 71 patients in Leh and seven in Kargil on Sunday, the recovery figure had gone up to 8,800, which is 95 percent of the total cases, they said.

DDC Election Results Today

FATE OF 4200 CANDIDATES TO BE DECIDED BY EVENING

SRINAGAR: The fate of nearly 4,200 candidates for the 280 District Development Council (DDC) seats in Jammu and Kashmir will be decided on Tuesday, as counting of votes will begin for the eight-phase polls held for the first time in the union territory.

Officials in the State Election Commission said a total of 4,181 candidates, including over 450 women, were in the fray for the 280 DDC seats.

The elections to this third tier of the Panchayati Raj system were held for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir and were the first mass polls after the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in August 2019.

The polling was held over eight phases beginning November 28 and ending on December 19 as 51 per cent of the 57 lakh eligible voters exercised their franchise in the elections, which were largely peaceful.

Seven Kashmir-centric mainstream political parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic



Results Will Be Available Online: SEC

JAMMU: The results of recently conducted District Development Council (DDC) elections would be accessed online dynamically, the State Election Commissioner (SEC), KK Sharma on Monday.

The SEC stated this while interacting with the media-persons here today.

While briefing the media about the availability of election results on a website: <http://ceojk.nic.in>, the SEC stated that the State Election Authority would facilitate people and media alike to

access election results and trends on a dynamic basis.

He said that soon after the randomization and time-tested protocols the ballot boxes would be opened and ballot papers would be mixed subsequently for counting and added the updated information would be given to the people on the website.

The SEC added that tomorrow's counting would decide the fate of 2178 candidates for 280 DDC seats and counting would begin at 9 am.

3 More Die Of Covid-19

232 NEW CASES IN J&K

SRINAGAR: At least three more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, even as 232 new cases, including 5 Soldiers and a policeman were detected in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, taking the number of people infected by the virus to 118495.

Two more people succumbed to the deadly disease in Kashmir Valley and one in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The victims include a 70-year-old man from Khalmulla Ganderbal and a 70-year-old woman from Natipora Srinagar besides one from Jammu district.

4G Likely To Be Restored On New Year Eve

SRINAGAR: The high speed mobile data services, which remained suspended from August 05, 2019, would likely be restored across Jammu and Kashmir by on New Year Eve ending, reports said Monday.

A local news agency KNO quoting reliable sources, reported that 4G mobile internet services would likely be restored across J&K by the end of this month.

"The announcement regarding the restoration of high speed mobile data services would likely be made soon in Jammu and Kashmir," sources said. Confirming the reports, a central Bharatiya

'Chillai-Kalan' Begins On A Dry Note In Kashmir

KO Photo: Abid Bhat



SRINAGAR: 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period, began in Kashmir on Monday on a dry note even as there was improvement in the minimum temperature across Kashmir valley, MeT officials said.

The 40-day period commences from Shab-e Chella(-e Kalan) ("night of (the great) forty") the "longest and darkest night of the year," that is, in the night of the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice which corresponds to the night of December 21 this year.

People across the region particularly in Iran and parts of Central Asia celebrate the commencement of Chilla-e-Kalan but Kashmiris largely bewail its arrival. The period lasting from December 21 to January 31 is considered the harshest winter period as a cold wave grips the region and the temperatures drop

considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as the water supply lines with people's hardships compounded by the electricity shortages.

The chances of snowfall are most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall, the officials said.

While 'Chillai-Kalan' will end on January 31, the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Meanwhile, the night temperature rose across the valley last night owing to a cloud cover, but the minimum still settled below the freezing point, the officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4 degrees

Court Orders Framing Of Charges Against Aasiya



NEW DELHI: A Delhi court Monday ordered framing of charges against Kashmiri separatist Aasiya Andrabi and her two associates for allegedly "waging war against India, sedition and conspiracy to commit acts of militancy in the country."

The case relates to allegedly waging war against the country with support from Pakistan, including militant entities there. Special Judge Parveen Singh ordered putting Andrabi and her associates -- Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen -- on trial for various offences punishable under IPC and stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). They were arrested in April 2018.

The court order the framing of

charges under IPC Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the Government of India), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Government of India), 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153-B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration) and 505 (statements conducting to public mischief).

It further directed framing charges under UAPA sections 18 (conspires or attempts to commit, or advocates, abets, advises or incites terror act), 20 (being member of terrorist gang or organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation).

The charges are scheduled to be formally framed on January 18. Andrabi, who was chief of the banned outfit Dukhtar-e-Milat (Daughters of Nation), was accused of being involved in conspiracy and acts to "severely destabilize the sovereignty and integrity of India", along with the two women associates.

Himayat Great Initiative for Youngsters: LG

"It provides second chance to youngsters who have had to quit studies"



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for creating an ecosystem to promote self-employment & continuous encouragement for the skilled youth in Jammu and Kashmir through programmes like centrally sponsored Himayat Programme, saying "we can reconstruct a better & more resilient workforce in J&K, which will also be able to bridge social inequality"

Speaking during Industry Connect Meet-Himayat 2020 organized by Himayat Mission Management Unit, Department of Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj here, Sinha said that Himayat Programme' was a perfect example of great synergy between the government, training partners, job providers and the people.

"Himayat is an unprecedented initiative for those youngsters who have had to quit studies due to one reason or the other. It provides them a second chance to realize their dreams and earn a livelihood", he said, as per an official spokesperson while addressing the gathering of representatives from over 60 organizations from private sector.

HC Disposes Of PIL Into Shopian 'Fake Encounter'

Says PIL By Third Party Cannot, Should Not Be Entertained

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday disposed of a petition filed in "Public Interest" into the "fake encounter killing" of three Rajouri youth this year, underlining that the PIL by a third party cannot and should not be entertained.

Three youth— Abrar Ahmed (25), Imtiyaz Ahmed (20) and

Mohammed Ibrar (16) were claimed to be militants and killed in a "gunfight" at Amshipora Shopian on July 18 this year. As they turned out to be innocents, on October 2, their bodies were exhumed in Baramulla and handed over to their families.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Binal and Justice Puneet Gupta passed the orders as a petition filed by family members of three victims with "same prayer" is pending before the court Jammu's wing. "If the prayers made by the petitioner in the

Examine Setting Up Of HRC: HC Tells Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday asked the government to examine matter regarding setting up of a Human Rights Commission in J&K.

After the promulgation of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission ceased to exist from 31 October last year.

"The matter especially with reference to the provisions of Section 21(7) of the Act of 1993 needs to be examined by the Government so that proper remedies are available with the aggrieved persons, who are having any grievance regarding violation of their human rights," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Binal and Justice Puneet Gupta said.

Dreaded Deathsmen Of Kashmir's Hanged History

ZAID BIN SHABIR

As morning news on December 12, 2020 flashed the execution of an Iranian dissident Ruhollah Zam, Abdul Aziz, 84, instantly traveled decades back, in the tumultuous era of forties, when as a seven-year-old boy he was forced to witness "his life's first public hanging".

It was early 1940s and his homeland was reverberating with "Quit Kashmir" slogans—challenging the mighty Dogra regime in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his hometown Kokar Bazaar, he would see his tribe quivering in fear when frightening ParagWatul would proclaim: "Aaj Khash-Khash Bagh meai Phansi Ha" (Today, hanging will take



place in Khash Khash Bagh).

The death-drummer would leave behind a trail of terror and commoners would coop in their houses like frightened chickens.

But in Dogra-dominated Kashmir, such ghoulis street specters were a different Olympus, where participation of the public was made mandatory by monarch.



After the hanging, these hangmen would flee in such a manner that no one ever perceived their real identity and maybe no one will ever know the reality behind the disguise of a Mar'riWatul"

In that circa of political circus, Aziz saw ParagWatul vanishing from the scene after raising his petrifying pitch.

Bogeyman in Town
In the city where defiant as well as tax-burdened souls would often find themselves hanging from the fabled bridges, the terror tribe of ParagWatul was being patronized on the regime order to instill fear among masses. Among those harrowing men was Boud'i Watul.

The legend of Boud'i Watul remains a shrouded chapter in Kashmir's dreadful past.