



**P3 CITY**

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHAB-E-MEHRAJ CONGREGATION AT HAZRATBAL REVIEWED

Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim, Mattu along with Commissioner of the Corporation Athar Amir Khan Thursday visited Dargah Hazratbal Mosque and oversaw the arrangements

**THINK**

## SRINAGAR FACING A GARBAGE CRISIS

Srinagar City, the summer capital of Kashmir is famous worldwide for its natural environment, gardens, waterfronts, and houseboats. Emperor Jahangir (a Mughal king in the 17th



**P11 SPORTS**

## INDIA FOOTBALL CAPTAIN SUNIL CHHETRI TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Indian football team captain and star striker Sunil Chhetri on Thursday said he has tested positive for COVID-19, a development that is set to rule him...



## Widom Quote!

Beginnings are such delicate times.  
—Frank Herbert

## NEWS DIGEST

### LG Grets People On Shab-e-Meraj

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his heartfelt greetings to people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Shab-e-Meraj. In his message of felicitations, the Lt Governor hoped that the auspicious occasion would spread the message of peace and promote the spirit of brotherhood. ● More On P10

### J&K Logs 75 Cases, One Death

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 75 fresh cases of coronavirus, even as the deadly disease consumed another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, the victim belonged to Kashmir Valley and the latest casualty has taken the total death count to 1969-729 in Jammu and 1240 in the Valley. ● More On P10

### CRPF Man Shoots Himself Dead

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Thursday committed suicide by shooting himself dead in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Constable Amar Jyoti of CRPF 79 battalion shot himself dead with the service rifle of his colleague at a hotel in Humhama area of the district on Thursday morning, reports said. The deceased ● More On P10

### Cop Killed In Hit And Run Case

SRINAGAR: A railway cop on Thursday was knocked to death by an unknown vehicle in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. 38-year-old Pervaiz Ahmad of Hatmulla, Anantnag was mowed down by an unidentified vehicle at Damjan area of Qazigund on early Thursday morning, officials said. Station House Officer (SHO), Qazigund Irshad Reshi ● More On P10

### Decomposed Body Found In Kishtwar

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday recovered a decomposed male body along the banks of river Chenab in Kishtwar district, officials said. They said the decomposed male body was recovered by the police soon after being informed by locals who spotted it. The body was shifted to Mortuary Room of district Hospital Kishtwar. The police has also ● More On P10

## 2 Militants Killed In Overnight Encounter: Police



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police claimed on Thursday to have killed two local militants of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) in an overnight gunfight in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

JeM militants Adil Ahmad Bhat and Zahid Ahmad Rather were killed on Thursday morning by the joint team of police, army's 3 RR and CRPF in Kandipora village of Bijbehara in the exchange of gunfire that ensued when

the former rejected repeated surrender offers and fired upon the state forces to break the cordon, a police spokesperson said.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were involved in several crime cases including attacks on security forces and "civilian atrocities".

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case ● More On P10

### CHARGES FILED AGAINST MILITANT, 3 OGWS

Police on Thursday said that it has filed a chargesheet against a Pakistan based militant and three of his associates, who were arrested from Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. The chargesheet were submitted before the court in a case FIR No 199/2020 registered at the police station Ganderbal, a police spokesperson said. ● More On P10

## Civil Secretariat To Go Paperless

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Administrative Council in Jammu and Kashmir has approved the adoption of e-office system in all departments of the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesman said on Thursday.

The time-bound roll out of e-office in government departments at an estimated cost of Rs 67.62 crore will be a step towards the introduction of paperless office, besides, saving on the cost of shifting official records twice a year between both the secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar, he said.

The shift to e-office will bring a considerable improvement in the pace of disposal of official business and establish accountability through monitorable statistics of file movement, thereby improving public service delivery, the spokesman said.

The project entails setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Srinagar for providing high speed and uninterrupted connectivity, setting up ● More On P10

## Rohingya Refugees: Plea In SC Seeks Release Of Members Detained In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Centre from implementing any order deporting them.

An intervention application has been filed in the pending matter before the top court, which also sought direction to Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant refugee identification cards through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for the Rohingyas in the informal camps.

The application filed by Mohammad Salimullah, a Rohingya refugee through advocate Prashant Bhusan, said that it is filed in the public interest in order to secure and protect the right against deportation of the refugees in India.



File Photo

The plea said that it is filed to protect rights guaranteed under Article 14 and Article 21, read with Article 51(c) of the Constitution, against the deportation of Rohingya refugees who have taken refuge in India after escaping widespread violence and discrimination against their community in their home country

Myanmar. "Release the detained Rohingya refugees immediately and direct the Union Territory government and the Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant Refugee identification cards through the FRRO for the Rohingyas in the informal camps," it said. It sought ● More On P10

### SOPORE 'CUSTODIAL DEATH'

## HC Seeks Govt's Response On Family's Plea

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir high court has issued notice to the government on a plea by family from Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, seeking copy of a magisterial enquiry report and filing of FIR into the alleged "custodial death" of their kin in September last year.

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has sought the response by May 12 after hearing advocate Shafaqat Nazir for the family which alleges that their kin, Irfan Ahmad Dar of Sidiq Colony Sopore, was killed in alleged police custody on the night of September 16 last year as against the official version that the 23-year-old's body was found near a quarry at Tujjar-Sharief

after he "escaped taking advantage of the darkness."

In the petition filed by Irfan's mother—Haja Begum, and his siblings—Tahira Akther (sister) and Javid Akbar Dar (brother)—the family has sought copy of the magisterial enquiry report conducted on the directions by District Magistrate Baramulla, as per petition.

The family has also sought directions to the police to register FIR with regard to "killing of Irfan in Police custody" as well as "adequate compensation the kin of the deceased." The court has issued notice to government through Commissioner cum Secretary General Administration Department, Principal Secretary Home Department, Director General Of Police, ● More On P10

## Beacon of Education Reemerges In Gritty Grades of Kashmiri Girls

Rakshanda Afrin

In his celebrated anthology, The Veiled Suite: The Collected Poem, Agha Shahid Ali details his grandmother's "bleeding heart"—which ensured the educational empowerment of the masses in the valley.

Shahid's poem, Prayer Rug in her memory, became a token introduction of "the lady with a lamp"—Begum Zaffar Ali.

*this year my grandmother also a pilgrim in Mecca she weeps as the stone is unveiled she weeps holding on to the pillars*

Beyond the poem, however, there's a staggering profile of the grand old lady of Kashmir—whose educational service made her legend. "Firmly determined, my



Begum Zaffar Ali with Mohammad Ali Jinnah in this pre-47 pic.

mother-in-law, Begum Zaffar Ali, was a self-made lady, who spent her life relentlessly advocating for women education and empowerment in the

valley," recalls Dr. Shaheena Agha, at her Rajbagh residence.

In the sweeping accolades being showered on the lockdown-hit girls whose recent grades once again made them the shining stars of Kashmir's dented academia, Begum Zaffar Ali found a glorious mention for inspiring generations of girls in the valley.

"My mother-in-law was one of the first Kashmiri girls whose grit made her a beacon of educational excellence," Shaheena continues.

"An untiring activist, Begum Zaffar helped Kashmiri women in one way or another. I take inspiration from her."

In her 60s, Shaheena first met Begum Zaffar as a 26-year-old woman, when she married the celebrated educationist's eldest son, Agha Nasir Ali, in 1986.

"It was an evening of mutual admiration and love," she talks about the first interaction with her ● More On P10



Begum Zaffar Ali