3 Houseboats Gutted In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: At least three houseboats and a residential hutment were gutted in the world famous Dal Lake on Monday in a deadly blaze leaving more than three families homeless. The tentative loss figure figured out by the House Boat Owners Association (HBOA) is more than rupees one crore.

The fire broke out at Konakhan area of famous Dal Lake, in the afternoon when the families living in a hutment, and two houseboats had gone out for some work.

"Within no time, two houseboats and a residential hutment was razed to ground due to deadly fire," General Secretary House Boat Owners Association (HBOA), Abdur Rashid Kaloo told.

He said that fire tenders reached the spot very late as a result fire damaged two houseboats and a residential hut. The damaged property belonged to Bashir Ahmed Gosani son of Muhammad Rajab Gosani and Mehrajudin Karnai son of Ghulam Rasool Karnai. "The tentative loss figure is more than Rs one crore. Even though police and a local patwari visited the spot and an FIR was lodged, we urge the government and the local administration Srinagar to provide an exgratia relief to the affected families," Kaloo said.

FILE PIC

VIOLATION OF COURT DIRECTIONS:

Serving once official posted yet again in LAWDA

SRINAGAR: In a brazen violation to court directions, Housing Department has deputed an Engineer in Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) who has already served LAWDA as Assistant Executive Engineer.

Pertinently, there are clear cut directions from the court that any employee serving LAWDA once can't be deputed there for second term. Court directions had come to check the menace of corruption.

Scores of Dal dwellers Monday emerged in Press Enclave and alleged that incumbent Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st has managed to get himself posted in LAWDA for 2nd time, though the said official has already served LAWDA in the capacity of Assistant Executive Engineer.

"The said officer was trying from some time to get this posting and he successfully managed to win the confidence of the higher-ups in the Housing Department," they told Kashmir News Trust adding that they fail to understand how the Housing Department violated the court rules and appointed the said officer in the LAWDA for the 2nd time.

When contacted, the officer in question Feroz Ahmed said that it is the administration that can justify his posting. "I am only an employee and followed the government orders," he told KNT.

Admin fails to install traffic lights in City

SRINAGAR: Despite government's tall claims to streamline the traffic system in summer capital, most of traffic lights are defunct causing inconvenience to commuters.

Commuters across the city on Monday blamed government for failing to repair defunct signals at many places.

Ali Mohammad Mir, a local commuter at Khayam Chowk told JKNS that due to defunct traffic signals locals are facing problems on daily basis.

"There is neither traffic signal here nor any specific bus stand in the city. Everyday vehicles get lined up as there is no one to manage the traffic," he said.

As per Mir, during morning and evening hours, traffic is blocked at the intersection resulting in frequent traffic jams at the place.

The residents appealed SMC and district administration to install a traffic signal here, widen the intersection and station traffic cops here. It can save lives of people who are being ferried to the hospital, they said.

Another local, Yaqoob Hussain at Bemina Byepass said there are no traffic lights in the city. During morning and evening, massivetraffic jams occur in the area, he said.

Earlier in 2019, the district administration claimed that they would install intelligent traffic system in the city but 13 months it seems government has failed to all ends.

Locals appealed traffic department and SMC to install traffic lights at vital junctions in the city, so that people would get a sigh of relief.

A senior official at district administration told JKNS that they are planning to install new traffic lights in entire Srinagar.

"The intelligent traffic system project would be completed within next few months in the city," the official said.

Commissioner SMC reviews implementation SBM

SRINAGR: Commissioner, SMC Gazanfer Ali convened a meeting to review implementation Swachh Baharat Mission (SBM), here today.

The meeting discussed all the SBM including Solid Waste Management, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) capacity building in detail.

The Commissioner directed the IEC partners to organize effective and resulted oriented activities including awareness drives on waste segregation and sanitation in schools and colleges, besides organizing Walkathons, plogging and Nukhad Natks across the city.

Among other, Consultant, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Project Management Support Unit, Nodel Officer SBM, IEC Partners and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Where is much-hyped Fee Fixation Committee, ask parents

SRINAGAR: The inordinate delay by J&K government to make much hyped Fee Fixation Committee (FFC) functional has given a free hand to the private schools to fix their fee structure arbitrarily.

The FFC became defunct on July 28 of 2019 after the two year term of the Chairman of the committee completed.

"Since then the government has not taken any decision about making the committee functional again," an official said.

Some years ago, the committee was constituted on the directions of Supreme Court in wake of the complaints against the private schools fleecing parents.

The committee was given a mandate to regular the fee structure in private schools. The committee was headed by a justice (Rtd) and was given other staff members by the school education department.

"After the two year term of Chairman ended, the government should have appointed new Chairman on war footing basis or extended the term of the same Chairman to keep the committee functional. But no such step was taken due to which the committee is defunct from past over six months," the official said.

FILE PIC

As per KNO, amid the delay in making the committee functional, the fee structure in most of the schools has been hiked arbitrarily, with no check from the education department.

The parents complain of being fleeced by schools who are overcharging monthly tuition fee besides other fees charged by school management under various heads.

The parents said the schools have enhanced the monthly fee by Rs 600 to Rs 700 in each class in violation of government norms.

"Even some schools force parents to pay in advance the fee till March of this month," a group of parents said.

An official at FFC said they also received complaints from parents against arbitrary hike in fee by private schools in various districts but they are not in position to initiate any action.

Commissioner Secretary School Education Department, Hirdesh Kumar was not available for his comments.

However, a top official in civil secretariat, wishing not to be named, said the education department has submitted the file to law department to seek their legal opinion in appointment of new Chairman of the committee. "There has been no response from law department till date," he said. (KNO)

Navin Choudhary, Pandurang Pole take stock of public grievances

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Education and Technical Education Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary and Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, today took stock of people's grievances during a day-long public grievance camp held at Banquet Hall, Srinagar.

During the programme, a large number of deputations and individuals from Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Kupwara among other areas of Kashmir region met the Administrative Secretaries and highlighted their issues.

During the camp, several service matter cases were also taken up. The deputations sought an early redress from the Government.

Administrative Secretaries assured the deputations and individuals that all their issues would be looked into for redressal. They said that addressing people's developmental problems was primary concern of the Government.

Joint Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir and other senior officers were present during the day-long camp.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K

(Camp Office : MMAB District Hospital, Anantnag)

Phone No. 01932-227624 e-mail : gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Short Term sealed Quotation affixed with Rs 6/- Revenue stamps are invited from registered suppliers/ Dealers having PAN and GST registration for supply of Uniforms (Cloth only) for Drivers. Nursing Orderlies and Safaiwala of Associated Hospitals of Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.

S.No.	Description of the item	Quantity	Specification (Fabric Description)
1.	Supply of Suiting Cloth for Pent & Shirt for Men	75	Suiting and shirting fabric should have anti-pilling resistant to shriking and colour fading
2.	Supply of Shirting Cloth for Frock & Shalwar for Women	10	

The Quotation along with sample uniform in sealed envelope addressed to Principal Govt. Medical College, Anantnag shall reach this office by of before 25.02.2020 upto 3 PM and shall be opened on 26.02.2020.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The rates should be quoted per Meter inclusive of ail taxes and duties.
- Rates should be F.O.R destination basis with no scope of escalation.
- Successful bidder shall have.to supply the uniform (cloth) immediately after placement of supply orders
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any Quotation without "assigning any reason.
- Quantity of uniforms indicated above may increase or decrease.

Sd/-
Prof. Shaukat Jeelani)
Principal, GMC, Anantnag

DIPK No. 1712/M

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
23
JUMADA AL-SANI
1441

This Day in History

- 1370 - Battle at Rudau: Germany beats Lithuania
- 1461 - Wars of the Roses: Second Battle of St Albans - Lancastrian army defeats Yorkists and recaptures King Henry VI
- 1500 - Battle of Hemmingstedt - German peasant army repels ducal army of Schleswig and Holstein
- 1670 - France & Bavaria sign military assistance treaty
- 1814 - Battle of Mormant: French Imperial army defeat Russian Austrian forces (War of the Sixth Coalition)
- 1815 - Treaty of Ghent ratified by the US Senate and signed by President James Madison ending War of 1812, over a month after it was signed in Europe
- 1965 - US Ranger 8 launched, will transmit 7,137 lunar pictures
- 1966 - French satellite Diapason D-1A launch into Earth orbit
- 1969 - Golda Meir sworn in as the first female Prime Minister of Israel
- 1973 - US National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger meets Chinese leader Mao Zedong, where the latter jokingly offers to send 10 million Chinese women to the United States
- 2006 - A massive mudslide occurs in Southern Leyte, Philippines; the official death toll is set at 1,126.
- 2008 - Kosovo declares independence from Serbia.
- 2013 - 37 people are killed and 130 are injured in a series of Baghdad car bombings
- 2017 - Discovery of a new mostly underwater continent Zealandia in the South Pacific announced in research journal "GSA Today"

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 52
ZUHR 12: 45
ASR 4:37
MAGRIB 6:19
ISHA 7:41

From KO Archives

Earthquakes: A monster is lurking beneath Kashmir, say experts

Shafa'at Rasool

SRINAGAR: Kash¬mir may not always be a spectator to the angers of the Earth, as meteorologi¬cal experts believe that we may witness a massive earthquake, registering above 8 on the Richter scale, in future. Nobody knows when- it can be to¬morrow or after a hundred years. But contrary to the locally held belief that Koh-i-Sulaiman and other hills of volcanic origin may erupt, the danger is mainly due to the tectonic activity in the entire Himalayan re¬gion; from the Hindukush in the west to Sadiya hills in the east.

Iwrlian Meteorological De¬partment has already placed central and south Kashmir in the high risk Zone 6 of the seismic map of India. This sig¬nifies an extremely high probability of earthquakes of very high magnitudes. These dangers arise from the fact that the Indian peninsular plate is pushing itself in to the Eurasian plate at a rate of 6 cm per year and this is build¬ing up pressure in the entire Himalayan region, thus pro¬voking tectonic activity. Earthquakes in this region are primarily the release of this pressure caused by the movement of plates deep within.

The point of worry is that the entire Himalayan region bar¬ring Kashmir and western Nepal has experienced major earthquakes, thus releasing some of the tension. Experts say that an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale is due in these two legions. Seismologists call an earth¬quake of above 8 magnitudes as 'great'.

But no one knows when this will happen as there is absolutely no reliable forecasting method available at this time. "Although we have minor earthquakes here, as the one last year of 6.2 magni¬tude whose epicentre was in the Hindukush, but we have not experienced any great one in the last 160 to 900 years. By hypothesis and statistical prediction we can say mat Kashmir may witnesses a severe earth¬quake. But nobody knows when", says Surinder Paul, senior meteorologist and Deputy Director Indian Me¬teorological Department, Srinagar.

Experts dismiss as myths the views about cur¬rent volcanic activity in Kohi-Sulaiman and other hills in the valley. Prof. Muhammad Ismail Bhat, headof the geology and geo¬physics department in Uni¬versity of Kashmir clarifies: 'These public fears have no basis, we do not face any danger from these hills nor is there any question of some volcanic activity going on inside them". Studies have revealed that these hills came into being some 280 million years ago because of volcanic eruptions, and remained active for another 100 million years. They have shown no activity for the past 180 million years.

The extensive media treatment of the causes behind earthquakes (after the Gujarat quake) has made terms like 'tectonic plates' and 'Richter Scale' almost household words, and public awareness about earth's temperament has increased Substantially. The fact that earthquakes cannot be predicted with pinpoint accuracy, leave alone prevented, is being accepted with philosophical stoicism. One point of comfort has emerged from this deluge of specialised information, and experts have put it across with admirable clarity: 'Earthquakes do not kill people, buildings do.' There lies the hope for people in regions prone to earthquakes, if governments wake up in time, that is.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 17 February, 2001)