



Maximum : 23°C
Minum : 11°C
Humidity : 48%

SUNSET
Today 07:10 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:48 AM



01 Ramazan-ul-Mubarak | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 88 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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RAMAZAN 2020: MUSLIMS BEGIN MARKING A SUBDUED RAMAZAN UNDER VIRUS LOCKDOWN

Muslims worldwide begin Ramazan today with dawn-to-dusk fasting, but many will have to forgo the communal prayers and family gatherings that make the holy month special, as authorities maintain lockdowns aimed at slowing the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS
P5

News Digest

01 ST RAMAZAN		
	IFTAR TODAY	SEHRI TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:13	04:19
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:19	04:17

Army Soldier Killed In Kupwara Fire

Srinagar- An Army soldier was killed in an accidental fire after his service rifle went off accidentally inside an army camp at Hirri area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, police said. The soldier namely Havaldar Rakesh Kumar of 8 JAT Regiment posted with army's 160 TA headquarters at Hirri sustained a bullet wound in his chest, reports said. The report said that the incident occurred while he was cleaning. P-02

2 Held With Fake Currency Notes

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two persons for circulating fake currency notes in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. "Acting on specific information, Bandipora Police arrested two individuals and recovered fake Indian currency notes from their possession," a police spokesman in a statement issued here said. "Officers arrested two individuals in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bandipora for circulating P-02

Biker Dies On Srinagar -Jammu Highway

Pulwama: A biker died on Friday on Srinagar-Jammu highway in a road accident. Police sources said that incident occurred at Chandhara Pampore crossing. The biker rider suffered serious injuries in the accident. He was shifted to SMHS hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. A police official identified the deceased as Suhail Abdullah Sheikh s/o Muhammad Abdullah of Lalpora Chatlam Pampore. "A case vide P-02

Man Electrocuted In Srinagar

Srinagar: A 50-year-old man was electrocuted in Srinagar outskirts on Friday. The deceased was repairing electric wire when he came in contact with live wire. He was rushed to the SMHS hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead. The deceased is identified as Bashir Ahmed Parry son of Ghulam Muhammad, a resident of Parimpora Srinagar. The incident occurred at Barthan Srinagar. Meanwhile police P-02

2 Boys, Woman & Her 3 Daughters Covid-19+ve

20 More Test Positive On Friday, J&K Tally At 454



SRINAGAR: A 5 and 8-year-old boys besides a woman and her three minor daughters were among twenty people who tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Friday, taking the number of the infected persons to J&K to 454. All these cases were confirmed at Viral Diagnostic Lab of SKIMS Soura and as per Professor Farooq

Jan, Medical Superintendent of the tertiary care hospital, nine of them are from Bandipora, five from Shopian, four from Kupwara and two from Baramulla districts. "395 sample reports were received today and twenty among them came out to be positive," he said. According to Chief Medical Officer Bandipora Dr Tajamul Hussain

nine cases in the district are from two families of Gund Kaiser area. Sources said they include six females—aged 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 70—besides two males—one of the 65-year-old and other 80-years-old. "They belong to two families and are contacts of previous patients," said the CMO, adding, "Contact tracing is on. P-02

HC Denies Interim Protection From Arrest To Journalist Gowhar Geelani

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Denying interim protection from arrest to journalist Gowhar Geelani, a bench of High Court headed by Justice Ali Muhammad Magrey Friday directed the government to file its response on the petition before the next date of hearing scheduled on May 20. Geelani through his counsel was seeking quashing of FIR lodged against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act -1967.

Earlier, Cyber Police Station accused Geelani of "indulging in unlawful activities" through social media that are "prejudicial to the national integrity, sovereignty and security of India". The amended UAPA allows the government to proscribe individuals as terrorists and empowers more officers of the National Investigation Agency to probe cases. A person charged under the act can be jailed for up to seven years. Appearing on behalf P-02

Kashmir Journalists Subjected to Heat by Admin: PCI

SRINAGAR: The Press Club of India on Friday said that amid the restriction on high speed internet in Jammu and Kashmir, the journalists of the local media have been subjected to heat by the administration. In a statement issued today, P-02

Lone Fraud Accused Seeks Bail Over Covid-19 HC Dismisses Bail Plea By Ex-Minister's Son

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A former NC minister's son, arrested in a bank fraud case, sought bail citing the COVID-19 outbreak, but the High Court on Friday rejected his plea saying his apprehension was "misplaced as of now". A bench of Justice Puneet Gupta had on April 20 reserved for orders the plea by Hilal Rather, the son of former minister Abdul Rahim Rather, an accused in the Rs 177 crore bank loan fraud case and dismissed it for "being without merit". The court also said that Hilal cannot leverage a Supreme Court direc-

tive on decongesting jails in view of the pandemic to seek relief as he faces charges of "serious nature". "The bail cannot be granted on the mere asking of the accused nor can the accused claim bail as a matter of right. Each case has to be decided on its own merits," Justice Puneet Gupta said in his order. Hilal had moved the plea on March 4, seeking interim bail on medical grounds and the Supreme Court directive for decongestion of jails across the country in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. Hilal was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) P-02

JK Bank Guard Opens Fire During Scuffle

SRINAGAR: Panic gripped Chowgam area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday after a bank guard allegedly fired aerial shots in air during a scuffle. A police officer said that acting on reports, a police team reached the Chowgam branch of Jammu and Kashmir bank to investigate the alleged aerial firing which had taken place around noon. "It emerged that the bank guard had fired the shots during a scuffle with someone," the officer said. Several local boys were P-02

FIR Against IAS Officer Who Quit Over GOP's Kashmir Move

NEW DELHI: A police case has been registered against Kannan Gopinathan, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) last August, for not joining duty as directed by the government amid the coronavirus pandemic. An FIR under the Epidemic Diseases Act and Disaster Management Act was registered against him on April 21 at Moti Daman police station in the Union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, police said. He is also facing a charge under Section 188 of the IPC for refusing to obey a government order, said police inspector Liladhar Makwana. Gopinathan, who hails from



Kerala, had quit the service over "denial of freedom to the people of Jammu and Kashmir". "Based on a complaint by Superintendent of Personnel HK Kamble, an FIR has been registered against Gopinathan for not resuming his duty in the wake of coronavirus pandemic," the police officer said. P-02

JK Police Massively Engaged in Containing Covid-19 Spread: DGP

SRINAGAR: The DGP Dilbagh Singh Friday directed the officers that minimum public movement has to be ensured particularly in the areas declared as containment zones to prevent the spreading of the novel coronavirus. He said that with the cooperation of cross section of the society, effective implementation of lockdown is being ensured. DGP asked the officers to maintain similar rapport with social and religious leaders to observe same level of social distancing during the holy month of Ramazan too so that there is no letup in the current level of precautions. DGP was on day log visit to CTC, Lehtpora and Anantnag P-02

18 Militants Killed During Lockdown

JAMMU- Fifty militants, including several top commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT), were killed in anti-militancy operations by state forces in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far, officials said on Friday. Seventeen state forces personnel lost their lives while fighting the militants in the union territory, they said. "The militants also killed nine civilians in the last four months," the officials said. Giving details, a senior official told PTI that the slain militants included top commanders of JeM, LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen. He said of the 50 militants killed so far this year, 18 were killed during the on-going lockdown imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus. P-02

3 CRPF Cops Injured in Budgam Attack

SRINAGAR: Three paramilitary CRPF men were injured in a militant attack at Duniwari area of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday evening. Reports said that the militants lobbed a grenade inside the camp of CRPF 29 battalion at Duniwari area of Chadoora. In the attack, three CRPF troopers suffered injuries, they said. The injured trio has been identified as Inspector Mayesh Chand, constable G Prakesh Rao and constable K Sirnu. The paramilitary troopers also fired some shots in retaliation. However, there was no casualty reported to the other side. CRPF Spokesperson Pan-kaj Singh also confirmed the attack. The P-02



SOS FROM DELHI Stranded Kashmiri Girls Appeal For Evacuation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A video is going viral on the internet where a bunch of Kashmiri girls are seeking J&K government's support for immediate evacuation. As per the video, these Kashmiri girls are stuck in Hauz Khas, Delhi in a hostel, where they have not been treated well. The owner of their hostel, they said, is harassing them to pay rents during lockdown. "Even when the government has announced not to take rent from tenants right now, still these people P-02

An SOS From Bhopal

Over 250 Kashmiri students stuck in Bhopal city of Madhya Pradesh are demanding immediate evacuation, saying they are gripped in fear and panic. "We want to go home and request Jammu Kashmir Government to evacuate us from Bhopal. "We talked to District Development Commissioner Bhopal who in turn informed Government of India, but till date nothing has been done to give us a respite," said a student Muzaffar Hussain. P-02

THE STRANDED GIRLS SAID THEY aren't getting sufficient food to feed themselves.

2 Militants Killed During Kidnap Bid: Police

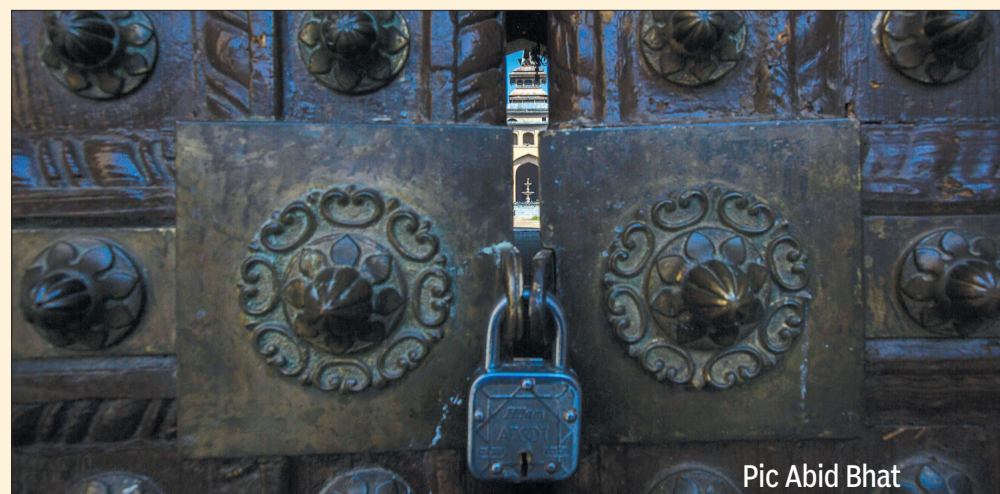
SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed minutes after they abducted a railway policeman at Yaripora area of Kulgam in south Kashmir on Friday, police said. Inspector General of Police Kashmir Range, Vijay Kumar (IPS) said that militants abducted a railway police constable at Shirpora village following which an immediate cordon was launched by a joint team

of police and army. Soon militants were chased at Kharpora leading to a brief gunfight in which both of them were killed while a policeman was injured. Acting on a tip off that the militants along with the abducted cop were travelling in a vehicle, a joint naka was laid where militants opened fire when they were signalled to stop. "This triggered P-02

Religious Leaders Call For Prayers At Home During Ramazan

SRINAGAR- Ramzan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, which begins this Saturday, will be a subdued affair in Jammu and Kashmir this time as gatherings and mass prayers are strictly banned due to the lockdown imposed to fight coronavirus. Most of the Muslim religious leaders and organisations have thrown their weight behind the administration's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, urging followers to pray at home and follow the government's instructions of maintaining social distancing. However, a few small mosques in the Valley have been holding congregational prayers through-

out the lockdown period and plan to continue doing so during the month of Ramzan as well. Most of these mosques in the interiors of Srinagar and other towns abandoned the practice of social isolation as the holy month drew closer, after initially following lockdown norms and urging people to stay at home. The administration, meanwhile, has made it abundantly clear that it will not tolerate any violation of the lockdown norms and warned of strict action. "We have had excellent cooperation from religious leaders in our fight against this pandemic. However, we cannot let the sacrifice



Pic Abid Bhat

made by the people during the past month go waste. Action will be taken in case congregational prayers are held in violation of prohibitory orders passed on April 15," Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary said. The Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid in Srinagar has asked people to continue abiding by the medical advisories. "In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar, keeping in view the strict medical advisories of maintaining social distancing by health experts, will continue with the suspension of Friday congregations and the Taraweeh prayers in

Jama Masjid, till the situation returns to normal," a spokesman of the mosque said. The Muslim Auqaf Trust has also issued a similar advisory. Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Nasir-ul Islam, has also asked people to offer the five mandatory prayers and Taraweeh (night prayers during Ramzan) at home. The best way to protect humanity in the holy month of Ramzan will be to offer five-mandatory prayers (of the day) and the Taraweeh prayers in their homes. People should behave like a mature society and not rush towards masjids in Ramzan. Instead, they should pray in their homes and seek blessings. P-02