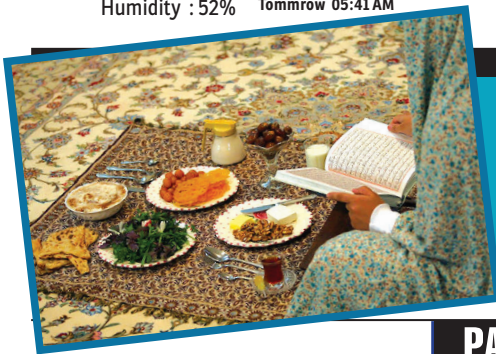




Maximum : 24°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 52%

SUNSET
Today 07:15 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:41 AM



News Digest

07TH RAMAZAN		
	IFTAR TODAY	SEHRI TOMMOROW
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:25	04:08
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:17	04:10

BOSE Chairperson Gets 2 Month Extension

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday gave further extension of two months to chairperson of Board of School Education (BOSE), Prof. Veena Pandita. The government had last month given one month extension to Prof. Veena Pandita due to delay in appointing new head of the prestigious body. The government has constituted a high-level panel for appointment of BOSE head. (KNO)

Soldier Among 3 Killed In Indian Firing: Pak

Srinagar: A Pakistan Army soldier and two civilians were killed in Indian firing in the Kailar and Rakhchikri sectors in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Geo TV quoting Pakistani military reported on Thursday. Quoting a statement from army's media wing ISPR, the report said that 34-year-old Lance Naik Ali Baz was killed when Indian army targeted Pakistani posts with automatic and heavy weapons in Kailar Sector. The report also claimed that two civilians, ● P-02

23 Booked For Lockdown Violation

Srinagar: Police on Thursday said that 23 people, including two shopkeepers were arrested while 25 vehicles were seized for defying government orders imposed to combat coronavirus spread. Five people were arrested and the same number of vehicles seized in Karan Nagar area of Srinagar for defying government orders, a police spokesperson said. In the adjacent Shaheed Gunj, ● P-02

3 Narcotics Smugglers Held In Rajouri

Jammu: Police on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle narcotics with the arrest of three persons in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district and recovered three kilograms of cannabis, officials said. A police team headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarter) Surinder Khadgar, which was on a routine check at Khandli Bridge Chowk in Rajouri, signalled a load carrier vehicle to stop but the driver along with two more associates ● P-02

US Says Remdesivir Shows 'Clear-Cut' Effect In Treating Coronavirus

Agencies

WASHINGTON: COVID-19 patients who took the antiviral remdesivir recovered about 30 percent faster than those on a placebo, the results of a major clinical trial showed Wednesday, as the top US epidemiologist hailed the drug's "clear-cut" benefit. The finding represents the first time any medication has been shown to improve outcomes against the COVID-19 illness, which has claimed more than 220,000 lives globally and ground the world economy to a halt. The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which oversaw the trial, said that patients on the drug made by Gilead Sciences had a 31 percent faster time to recovery than those on a placebo. "Specifically, the median time to



recovery was 11 days for patients treated with remdesivir compared with 15 days for those who received placebo," it said. For Anthony Fauci, who leads the NIAID and has been one of the government's point people during the crisis, "the data shows that remdesivir has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery." "Although a 31 percent improvement doesn't seem like a knockout 100 percent, it is a very important ● P-02

Quiet Burials, Hidden Identity Features Of New SOP To Deal With Kashmir Militancy

Observer Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: Concealing identity of militants slain in gunfights and preventing their public funeral, besides keeping a close watch on social media users are some of the features of the newly introduced Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to tackle militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, media reports said Thursday. Under the new SOP, the identity of the militants killed in gun-battles with the army will not be made public and it will be ensured that the slain remain unidentified, India Today reported quoting official sources. The report also says that the security agencies won't name the outfit to stop publicity of the militants' and halt the recruitment of young boys. The aim, according to the report quoting senior police officer, was to "starve militants of publicity they seek" Also, the report says that the credit of anti-militancy operations will be shared by all the security forces and such an operation will be termed "joint" The second most important feature of the new SOP is to prevent funeral procession of militants and their burial at local graveyards, India Today ● P-02

Among fresh cases, twelve are from Anantnag, eleven from Baramulla, four from Kulgam, two each from Srinagar and Pulwama and ● P-02

Teen Killed In Cross-LoC Shelling In Poonch

Agencies

Srinagar: A teenager on Thursday was killed after India and Pakistan troops traded gunfire along the line of control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. 16-year-old Gulfaraz, son of Mohammad Rashid of Tain Mankote was hit by a shell when the two estranged armies were exchanging heavy ● P-02

EMI: JK Bank Continues To Debit Accounts Of Borrowers Amid Lockdown

Agencies

Srinagar: Bank borrowers, including small businesses, startups and individuals, who have sought EMI deferment, are finding that their accounts are getting debited. All borrowers from Jammu Kashmir Bank are complaining that RBI directions, the Bank continued to debit their accounts in times of harsh lockdown period. Muhammad Iqbal from Rajbagh, who is a contractor by profession, said that he like many others have not sought EMI deferment, but were hoping that their accounts will not get debited due to emerging crisis. "We were wrong. Jammu Kashmir Bank didn't show any courtesy and continued to debit the accounts of borrowers," he said.



An entrepreneur Adil Ahmed who employs over 12 people in his venture said that he had asked for a deferment of his monthly EMI, as early as April 1. However, the amount was debited from his account on April 29. Reyaz Ahmed said that he had taken a car loan and the monthly EMI is Rs 14,295. Despite requesting for deferment my account got debited. "I have an EMI debit of Rs 4,500 on the end of every month for ● P-02

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HOW THE DEPRIVATION OF RAMAZAN HELPS CARE FOR THE SPIRIT

For Muslims, the afterlife guides much of our spirituality. Die before you die, the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) once said. As in: Let that ego go, divorce yourself from your earthly body, seek oneness with God and radiate kindness, humility and compassion. Rabia of Basra, a Muslim saint and Sufi mystic, (who was said to have greatly influenced Rumi, the great Persian Muslim poet) wrote: Ironic, but one of the most intimate acts of our body is death.....

.....PANORAMA

P5

PAGE 1 Anchor

Waiting For Evacuation: Stranded Kashmiris Ask — 'Is There Someone?'



JyotsnaBharti

JAISALMER, Rajasthan — Grappling with homecoming long in the sweltering quarantine centre, MasoomaMoosavi had

never thought that her predicament will force her to put up an uncanny bio on her twitter handle: 'When you're stuck in a quarantine facility for more than 40 days, you end up signing in

anywhere possible! So here I am.'

It's already been 47 days since the young girl was quarantined at Jaisalmer army accommodation after being evacuated from Iran along with 34 students and 12 pilgrims. And now, Masooma is among 14 girls asked to leave the quarantine facility and embark on 1135 km road journey to Kashmir on their own. "All they said they could do for us was arrange a local bus that would drop us to Srinagar," Masooma said. "By arranging a local bus I

mean they'll help us contact the driver, rest we've to pay ourselves. This is not what our parents were promised! More than a month has passed and we're still not home!" The young girl has been sending SOS-tweets to India's Foreign Minister S Jaishanker as well as Srinagar Magistrate, ShahidChowdhary. "Is there someone?" she wrote on her twitter handle, floated during her unending quarantine period to plead for her tribe's case. "Sometimes I wonder what special

material Allah used when he was creating us," she said. "Tested negative 4 times; completed 3 quarantine in Jaisalmer's scorching heat; were left behind without any logical reason and still here we're in search of a spark of hope!" Her tweets lately caught attention of a young J&K congressman, who sought Sachin Pilot's intervention in the case. Responding to the growing outcry of stranded Kashmiris, J&K government spokesperson, Rohit

Kansal, said that people need to be patient, as "we are reaching out". But as Masooma's pleas have so far fallen on deaf ears, she's anticipating a long haul. "And the count is going to increase as I have complete faith in mis-managing skills of our higher officials," she rues. The homecoming despondency is growing despite Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) allowing stranded pilgrims, students, labourers to take up ● PAGE 02

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT SPECIAL MATERIAL ALLAH USED WHEN HE WAS creating us," she said. "Tested negative 4 times; completed 3 quarantine in Jaisalmer's scorching heat; were left behind without any logical reason and still here we're in search of a spark of hope!"

Govt Says Covid-19 Spread Slowing Down In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Claiming that the spread of coronavirus has significantly slowed down, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said Thursday that there was no room for complacency as the situation demands extra watchfulness. "We continue to have a number

of red zones and we need to be ever alert and watchful. Premature exuberance or celebration can cost us very dear", Kansal told reporters here at a press conference. "Our current position may appear comfortable but let me remind you that we are dealing with an unpredictable and dangerous enemy" he added.

Kansal was flanked by Commissioner Secretary IndustriesManoj Kumar Dwivedi, Mission Director NHM Bhopinder Kumar and Director Information and public Relations Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar. The government spokesperson said that the UT has a good report card so far in the overall Covid-19 situation. He said a report of this morning has showed that the UT's testing rates continue to be among the highest while our percentage rise continues to be low resulting in a high doubling rate which is over 12 days. "The daily positivity rate has shown a downward trend and the doubling rate of positive cases has decidedly slowed down," Kansal said, adding "Our mortality is just above 1%, which is quite low given the number of cases. The most notable part is that over 92% of the cases can be traced. ● PAGE 02



WE TOO HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND LABOURERS stranded outside the UT who have started returning back home. Adequate precautions are being taken while allowing them inside the UT. There is no room for complacency,"

J&K Govt Issues SOP For Regulating Movement Of Stranded Persons

Those coming from red zones, hotspot areas to be put under administrative quarantine for 21 days, others to be home quarantined: Govt



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government on Thursday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for regulating the movement of stranded residents of J&K from outside the Union

Territory.

In an order the government issued SOP to be followed by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for regulating the movement of stranded people, including migrant workers, students and others. As per the order the ● PAGE 02

Covid-19 Cases Cross 600-Mark In J&K As 33 More Test Positive In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The number of coronavirus patients crossed 600-mark in Jammu and Kashmir as thirty three more people tested positive for the Pandemic in Valley onThursday. "Thirty three new cases have been reported from Kashmir in the last 24 hours," the officials said, adding that equal twenty four more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals. Among fresh cases, twelve are from Anantnag, eleven from Baramulla, four from Kulgam, two each from Srinagar and Pulwama and ● P-02



A CRPF Vehicle Deployed Outside The Historic Jamia Masjid In The Old City Of Nowhatta On Thursday.

J&K Govt Winds Up Vigilance Commission

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday issued a formal order announcing the winding up of Jammu and Kashmir Vigilance Commission that was constituted under the Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission Act 2011. In the fresh order issued by General Administration Department, it has been mentioned that the Jammu and Kashmir Vigilance Commission is wound up pursuant to the repeal of Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission Act, 2011 in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of state laws) order, 2020. The GAD further ordered that the staff of JKs Vigilance Commission drawn from various departments shall report to their concerned Ad-

ministrative department.

The staff drawn from various corporations, PSUs, organizations and posted in Vigilance Commission have also been asked to report to the department and organisation concerned. Furthermore, a committee comprising of Financial Advisor / CAO and under-secretary posted in commission shall handover the record, electronic equipment, books and other miscellaneous items to Director Anti-Corruption Bureau of Jammu and Kashmir for safe custody afterwards. It has also been ordered that building of commission shall be handed over to Director Estates along with the furniture items and Genset facility. The above mentioned committed shall also handover the vehicles of commission to Director JK Motor Garages—(KNO)

IT HAS ALSO BEEN ORDERED THAT building of commission shall be handed over to Director Estates along with the furniture items and Genset facility.

NIA Arrests One More In DySP's Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one person, alleged to be an arms dealer, in connection with the case pertaining to the arrest of now suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh who was nabbed by police for driving militants out of the Kashmir Valley earlier this year. The arrested person has been



identified as Tariq Mir and has been sent to six days of NIA custody by the court, they said. Mir, a resident of Shopian in South Kashmir, was arrested in Jammu and is alleged to have been indulging in arms supply to various militant groups. Earlier this year in January, the DySP was arrested along with two militants and an overground worker while he was driving them out of the Kashmir Valley to Chandigarh. He was suspended following his arrest.