



Maximum : 28°C
Minum : 14°C
Humidity : 45%

SUNSET
Today 07:34 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:22 AM

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FILMMAKER VIDHU VINOD CHOPRA RESPONDS TO ARBEENA & ASIF

Eid Mubarak to you and everyone else in Kashmir!
I read your open letter addressed to me about my film Shikara in the Kashmir Observer. I have read it multiple times. I liked the approach and the tone you have taken to present your views. You have already won the first battle of engaging someone in a conversation. This to me is the most important aspect of having a conducive dialogue. Let me tell you why I made Shikara. I started work on this movie post my mother's demise in 2007. She came on my request from Srinagar to Mumbai to attend the premier of Parinda in 1989 with a single suitcase. She could never return.....

.....PANORAMA
P5

News Digest

3 Injured In Tosa Maidan Blast

Srinagar: At least three people on Tuesday were injured when a shell exploded in the picturesque Tosa Maidan meadow of central Kashmir's Budgam district. "An accidental shell blast took place in Tosa Maidan (old artillery range) Khag area of Budgam. 3 persons are reported to be injured, who are being shifted to hospital," a police spokesperson said. He added that further details will be shared accordingly. According to the reports, the condition of one of the injured was life threatening. In past, the scenic Tosa Maidan meadow

Sopore Youth Hangs Self

Srinagar: A youth allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself inside his house in Sopore town of Baramulla district, reports said Tuesday. The 30-year-old Azad Ahmad of Mahrajpora, Sopore allegedly hanged himself inside his home during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. The youth was found hanging inside his room by his family members following which they rushed him the Sub-District hospital Sopore where doctors declared him brought dead. A police officer said that a case has been registered.

UBGL Grenades Recovered During CASO

Kupwara- Police and army on Tuesday recovered two UBGL grenades during a cordon and search operation here at Zunreshi area of Kralpora, reports said. They said that, upon receiving specific inputs, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Army's 14 SIKHLI and Special Operations Group (SOG) of Police at ChaupanMohalla, Zunreshi. During the operation, they said, two UBGL grenades were recovered in the area.

3 'Stalkers' Arrested In Awantipora

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three youth who were stalking and harassing a minor girl in south Kashmir's Awantipora. Irfan Ahmad Najari, Tawseef Ahmad Joo of Wuyan and Mudasir Ashraf of Chandhara were arrested by police on the basis of a complaint by the father of a minor girl alleging his daughter was being harassed and stalked by the trio since one month, a police spokesperson said.

Horse Sent To Home Quarantine In Rajouri

Rajouri: Amid panic and scare over the deadly COVID-19 outbreak, the authorities in Rajouri district have sent a horse to home quarantine for a period of four weeks after a man along with the horse managed to reach the district from Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, officials said. Officials said that the care takers of the horse have been directed to use all protective

'Prepare For War': Chinese President Directs Army

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday ordered the military to scale up the battle preparedness, visualising worst-case scenarios and asked them to resolutely defend the country's sovereignty.

Xi, 66 who is also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the two-million-strong military with prospects of life-long tenure in power, made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force during the current parliament session being held here.

Xi ordered the military to think about worst-case scenarios, scale up training and battle

preparedness, promptly and effectively deal with all sorts of complex situations and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

His comments came in the backdrop of the nearly 20-day standoff between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Several areas along the LAC in Ladakh and North Sikkim have witnessed major military build-up by both the Indian and Chinese armies recently, in a clear signal of escalating tension and hardening of respective positions by the two sides even two weeks after they were engaged in two separate face-offs.

The nearly 3,500-km-long LAC is the de-facto border between the two countries.



Top Army Commanders To Discuss Ladakh Situation

Top commanders of the Indian Army will carry out an in-depth review of the tense standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in several areas of eastern Ladakh at a three-day conference beginning Wednesday. The commanders will also deliberate on the overall situation in Jammu

Ladakh Face-off: PM Discusses Situation With Top Military Brass

NEW DELHI: In the midst of escalating border tension between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a meeting with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs with a focus on bolstering India's military preparedness to deal with external security challenges,



government sources said.

The military brass is learnt to have appraised Modi about the evolving situation in eastern

Ladakh, though officials maintained that the agenda of the pre-scheduled meeting was to discuss the ambitious military reforms and ways to boost India's combat prowess.

The meeting came hours after the top four generals briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh about the situation in Pangong Tso lake, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldi where the

'What's Happening At Border'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asked the government to come clear on what is happening at the border with China in Ladakh and be more transparent. Amid a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh, Gandhi refused to say anything more till he understood the facts. "I think, on the India-China issue, we would like to see some more transparency on what is going on. It becomes very difficult for us to have a position without understanding the facts," he told reporters when asked about the issue at a virtual press conference. "The government should make it clear to the people of India,



Bukhari Led Advisory Council Mooted For J&K: Report

KO Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR- Newly formed Apni Party leader Syed Altaf Bukhari is all set to be named as head of an Advisory Council for J&K.

Advisory Council, which will act as a virtual Cabinet will be announced soon, if reports emanating from New Delhi are to be believed.

Usman Majid, Vijay Bakaya, Sunil Sharma, Sunil Sethi and Chowdhary Zulfikar Ali being sworn in as early as late June, according to a report by IANS.

Quoting former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, P.D.T. Acharya IANS report said: "The advisory council in an UT helps the LG in the day-to-day administration. The real power is vested in the LG. The head of the advisory council cannot get the power of the CM. The advisory council also cannot make laws. The Constitu-

tion allows the President to administer UT through LG, but only the Parliament has the power to make law."

While as many as 10 to 12 members will be part of the council, its role may well be that of a Cabinet. Many former politicians from PDP, Congress and NC came on board and new Apni Party came into being with the hope that statehood will be restored. This appears to be part of a larger deal with the Centre that once the advisory council takes over the functioning of the UT, at an appropriate time the UT will be granted statehood once again, the report further claimed. "In fact, this is part of a larger deal with the state's political class", it added.

Quoting sources report said that Bukhari has been parked in Delhi and is likely to return to Srinagar to start consultations with party colleagues on the form and shape of the new altered polity of the UT.

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Panel Submits Report To End Seniority Dispute Of KAS Officers



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A high-level official panel has submitted its report to the Jammu and Kashmir administration for mitigating the seniority dispute of a large number of Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers as there have been allegations

of favouritism, illegal promotions and backdoor appointments, official sources said on Tuesday.

The administration had on March 2 constituted a committee to examine the seniority issue of the members of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in a time-bound manner.

THE REPORT ON THE ISSUE OF THE seniority of a large number of the KAS officers has been submitted to the government for resolution of the decades-long dispute as per rules,"

90-Year-Old Man Dies Of Covid-19, Toll Rises To 24

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A 90-year-old man, who had tested positive for COVID-19, died at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura Tuesday morning taking the coronavirus death toll in Jammu and Kashmir to 24, officials said.

A resident of Khaloora in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, the nonagenarian was referred to SKIMS Soura from GMC Anantnag yesterday and breathed his last around 5:45 a.m. today, officials said.

"The patient was suffering from pneumonia with chief complaints of fever and breathlessness," said Professor Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent of the tertiary care hospital.

He said that his sampling was done at around 6:30 p.m. on Monday and it came out to be positive at 9:08 p.m. same day.



"The patient was then shifted to Isolation facility where he died this morning," Professor Jan added.

With the fatality, the death toll due to the virus has gone up to 24 in J&K. So far Srinagar district has highest number of the fatalities—6 followed by Anantnag, Baramulla and Kulgam with four deaths each while Budgam and Jammu have two each and one death each has been reported from Bandipora and Udhampur. (With GNS inputs)

4 Expecting Mothers, 8 Of A Family Among 90 Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir showed no sign of decline as 91 more people on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19, including four expecting mothers

India, Pak Troops Exchange Fire Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The troops of India and Pakistan on Tuesday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Pakistan Army on Tuesday resorted to firing and shelling on forward areas along the LoC in Rajouri district, drawing befitting retaliation from Indian soldiers, a defence spokesperson said.

"Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by small arm firing with mortar shelling along LoC in Balakote sector in Poonch district early Tuesday morning", he said.

He said the Indian Army retaliated befittingly. The cross-border shelling between the

Concern In Kashmir's COVID Combatants: 'They Can Beat Us, Arrest Us...'

Auqib Javed

KARAN NAGAR: Srinagar — On a hot and humid day in Srinagar, Kashmir's healthcare specialists quietly walked out of the Government Super Speciality hospital, Shereen Bagh and assembled outside, with posters in hand.

Donning protective gears, with black bands tied around their arms, these COVID frontline warriors—leading the valley's pandemic fight back from the front at the moment—were sulking over the street hostility.

"It's getting too much to handle now," said a fresh-faced doctor, holding a poster: "Dear Patients, they may... Stop Us, Beat Us, Strip Us, Arrest Us... but we will always

be there for you'.

"If doctors continue to face such hostile street treatment," he continued, "it'll risk the entire healthcare system of the society at a time, when're in the middle of the health emergency."

These doctors were registering their protest against the alleged harassment of a cardiologist by SHO Zadibal on Monday.

Among other things, the harried doctor, named Syed Maqbool—whose harassment case evoked widespread condemnations on social media—alleged that the officer threatened to 'strip him naked'.

"No such behaviour is mandated or permitted," DGP J&K Police Dilbagh Singh sharply reacted



over the incident, so did IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

"My sympathies are with Dr Syed Maqbool," the top cop contin-

ued, "and not with the police officer who is reported to have caused alleged inconvenience and mental hurt to him, have ordered probe."

But barely 24 hours after this condemned case, cops once again drew flak over another incident, involving this time, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Tajamul Hussain.

Dr. Hussain was stopped at Bandipora's Nusoo area on Tuesday, when he was on his way to inspect a Quarantine and Sample Collection Centres.

In a viral video, the fuming CMO can be seen rebuking the on-duty cops, saying that the whole health system will collapse due to this street interference.

"Don't you know we're playing with our lives for you people, and you're stopping us from performing our duties," Dr. Tajamul

Youth Held Over Deadly Ganderbal Attack

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police have arrested a youth over last month's deadly attack on the Border Security Force (BSF) in central Kashmir's Gander-

bal district that left two paramilitary men dead, reports said Tuesday.

Police station Soura have arrested Waseem Ahmed Ganai of Pandach during the course of ongoing investigations in the militant attack, reports said today. Ganai, who has been arrested several times on alleged charges of stone pelting on

government forces, has been slapped with Arms Act (2/27 IA Act) and Attempt to Murder (307) charges. "He is being questioned while a case FIR number 48/2020 under section 307, 2/27 IA Act has been registered against him," a police official told news agency KNT.

In an audacious attack on May 20, unidentified bike borne militants attacked BSF in Pandach area of Ganderbal district killing two personnel. The militants also managed to flee from the spot with the rifles of the slain personnel.

