

Maximum : 23°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 64%SUNSET
Today 07:38 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:20 AM**"ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERROR":
TRUMP ORDERS MILITARY
DEPLOYMENT IN
WASHINGTON**

US President Donald Trump on Monday said he was deploying thousands of "heavily armed" soldiers and police to prevent further protests in Washington, where buildings and monuments have been vandalized near the White House.

"What happened in the city last night was a total disgrace," he said during a nationwide address as tear gas went off and crowds protested in the streets nearby. "I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults and the wanton destruction of property."

He denounced "acts of domestic terror" after nationwide protests against the death of an unarmed African American George Floyd in police custody devolved into days of violent race riots across the country.....

.....PANORAMA
P5**News Digest****Pregnant Woman
'Denied' Ambulance**

Srinagar: A pregnant woman was allegedly denied ambulance by the health officials in north Kashmir's Kupwara district forcing her family to shift her to the hospital in a private vehicle, reports said Tuesday.

Muhammad Qasim, a resident of WokbalHafada village said that he shifted his wife to the Primary Health Centre Taharat-poraVilgam after she developed labour pain. The doctors there, he said advised him to shift his wife to the District • P-02

**6 Gamblers Held In
Raid: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested six gamblers in a raid in Nishat area of this capital city. Acting on an input over the gambling activities, a police team carried out a raid in Ishber Nishat and arrested six gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 1, 44,200 besides playing cards were recovered from the spot. The accused, the police spokesperson said were shifted to • P-02

**Minor Drowns In
Shopian Rivulet**

Srinagar: A minor died of drowning on Tuesday after heavy rains triggered flash floods in Tongri rivulet in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Four-year-old Hazim Rafeeq Malikof Dangam slipped into a nallah Tongri after the area received heavy rains triggering flash floods this afternoon, reports said Soon after the incident, locals and police rushed to the spot and immediately launched rescue operation. After hectic efforts, the locals and police retrieved the • P-02

**Bear Kills Teen In
Poonch**

Srinagar: A teenager on Tuesday was attacked and killed by a bear in Surankote area of Poonch district. 14-year-old Tauseef Ahmed was quenching his thirst at a natural spring at Lassana Mohalla this afternoon when a bear appeared there and attacked him, reports said. The beast mauled the teen to death before police and wildlife officials could reach the spot. The police took the body into custody and later handed it over to the family for last rites (GNS)

**LAWDA Seals Two
Buildings At Dalgate**

Srinagar: The Lakes & Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Tuesday sealed two structures at Dalgate here for violating construction norms. The two structures at Buchwara Dalgate were sealed in presence of Magistrate and Station House Officer RM Bagh for violation and deviation of the approved building permissions issued by BOCA, reports said. These two structures were sealed in compliance to the Housing and Urban Development Department's order. The structures belonged to Farooq Ahmed Bhat and Muhammad Saleem, both residents of Buchwara.

**China Building Up Forces
On Ladakh Border: Pompeo**

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON- China has moved up its forces along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday, asserting that authoritarian regimes take these kinds of actions.

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.

"We see even today increasing forces of China moved up to the north of India on the Line of Actual Control there on the Indian border," Pompeo told Marc Thiessen and Danielle Pletka of AEI's 'What The Hell Is Going On' Podcast.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) continues to hide and obfuscate and delay the global response to the coronavirus pandemic that began in Wuhan. It has taken actions destroying the amazing freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, he said. »PAGE 02

**Defence Minister Downplays LAC Stand-Off
'Sizeable Number Of Chinese Troops Moved Into Eastern Ladakh'**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A "sizeable number" of Chinese troops have moved into eastern Ladakh and India too has taken all necessary steps to deal with the situation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, referring to the nearly month-long high-altitude standoff between the two armies.

Singh said a meeting between senior Indian and Chinese military leaders has been scheduled for June 6 even as he asserted that India is not going



to back off from its position. Asked about the current situation in sensitive areas in eastern Ladakh, he said »PAGE 02

**2 Militants Killed
In Tral Gunfight**

State Forces In Action During A Gunfight In South Kashmir's Tral On Tuesday. Pic Shah Junaid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants on Tuesday were killed in a fierce gunfight with government forces in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said.

Acting in specific inputs suggesting presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 42 RR and CRPF laid a siege Saimoh village of Tral in the wee hours today and launched a search operation. When the joint team started advances, the militants hiding in a residential house opened indiscriminate fire upon them in a bid to break the cordon.

"In the ensuing encounter, two militants have been killed and their bodies have been retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed militants is being ascertained," police said.

Police said that two AK Rifles, 5 magazines and 80 rounds, two pistols with 10 rounds and two hand grenades were recovered from the gunfight spot.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes," a police spokesperson said, while describing it as a "clean operation" with no collateral damage. The police spokesperson said that a case under »PAGE 02

PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any,"

**India's Credit Rating Cut Puts
It One Step Away From Junk**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A day after India's sovereign rating downgraded, Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday cut ratings of eight non-financial companies, including Infosys, TCS, ONGC, and three banks SBI, HDFC Bank and EXIM.

It also downgraded seven Indian infrastructure issuers, including NTPC, NHAI, GAIL and Adani Green Energy Restricted Group, by one notch. Issuer ratings of IRFC and HUDCO have also been lowered.

Moody's said the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus

pandemic and the downgrade of the sovereign rating are the key drivers for Tuesday's rating actions. On Monday, Moody's had downgraded India's sovereign rating for the first time in 22 years by a notch to "Baa3", which is the lowest investment grade — just a notch above junk status.

Accordingly, the long-term issuer ratings of eight non-financial companies — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Oil India Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Petronet LNG, Tata Consultancy »PAGE 02

Kashmir Reports 2 More Covid-19 Deaths, J&K Toll Rises To 33

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Two more people succumbed to COVID-19 in Kashmir in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll in Jammu and Kashmir to 33, officials said here on Tuesday.

The fresh fatalities include a 27-year-old man from Lolab area of Kupwara and an 80-year-old woman from Khanpora area of Baramulla, they said.

The test report of the man, who had died at SMHS hospital here on Monday, came back positive for COVID-19 this afternoon, they said.

He was suffering from »PAGE 02

**J&K Records New 117
Covid-19 Cases**

Coronavirus cases show no sign of decline as 117 more people, including nine expecting mothers and over a dozen policemen on Tuesday tested Covid-19 positive in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the number of infected across the Union Territory to 2718. Of the 117 new cases, 40 are from Jammu • P-02

**Top Doctor Fighting
Covid-19 Tests Positive**

Srinagar- A top pulmonologist and Head of Department, Chest Disease Hospital Srinagar, one of the exclusive facilities for the management • P-02

**Covid-19 Patient Brought
Back After Fleeing**

Srinagar: A middle-aged man detected positive for coronavirus, escaped from an isolation facility in north Kashmir's Kupwara • P-02

**Ex- Minister Namgyal
Tests Covid-19****Positive After Death**

Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister P Namgyal was tested positive for coronavirus hours after his death in Ladakh, making him the first person to die of the infection in the Union Territory, officials said on Tuesday. Namgyal, 83, who • P-02

**Rs 223 Crore Bank Fraud:
Ex-Chairman Goes Into Hiding**

Crime Branch Issues Lookout Notice, Announce Reward

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probing the whopping Rs 230 crore fraud case, issued on Tuesday a lookout notice against the former chairman of the J&K State Cooperative Bank, accused in the case.

An ACB spokesperson told Kashmir Observer today that the former bank chairman Mohammad Shafi Dar has gone into hiding after the high court quashed his FIR



on May 27, last month. The Bureau, he said has issued a lookout notice for him to take the ongoing probe to its logical conclusion.

"When the case was filed against him, he was the chairman of the bank. Later, he was sacked," the spokesperson said.

In the lookout notice issued today, the ACB has said that if any person has information about the whereabouts of the accused Mohammad Shafi Dar, the same should be communicated to the probe agency through email, Whatsapp or toll free number.

"Any person giving the information shall be suitably »PAGE 02

**J&K Govt Frames Media Policy To
Curb 'Misinformation, Fake News'**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday approved media policy with an aim to thwart misinformation and fake news and keep a check on any attempt to use media to "vitiate public peace, sovereignty and integrity of the country", besides undertaking measures for the welfare of journalists in the Union Territory.

In a statement released to the media, a government spokesperson said that with the approval of the media policy- 2020, the government will be in a better position to carry the



message of welfare, development and progress to the people in an effective manner, besides enabling the Department of Information & Public Relations J&K to keep pace with the demands of the media and reposition itself as a professional organization. The spokesperson said that »PAGE 02

**Catch J&K
Artists Live At
'Qaraar' Concert**

Artists Join Hands To Hold First Ever Virtual Music Concert Amid Covid Crisis

SRINAGAR: Some prominent musicians and instrumentalists across Jammu and Kashmir have joined hands to hold first ever virtual music concert—titled as 'Qaraar'. The artists including vocalist and composer, Waheed Jeelani, famous singer from Chenab valley, Rashid Jehangir • P-02

Despite 'Cherry On Top', Kashmiri Growers Frown Over 'Fruitless' Season

Swati Joshi

IN a bid to boost the battered business and unshackle it from the frequent market uncertainty, young orchardist, Ubair Shah, has been reaching out to his tribe for a fruitful pact for a long time now.

The consortium is aimed at handling the lockdown situation, currently impacting the cherry season in Kashmir Valley.

Shah is offering his platform to orchardists to sell their crop, either directly to customers, or through Business to Business (B2B) model.

"However," the young orchardist says, "our initiative isn't matching the surplus amount of cherry that Kashmir produces."

Founder of Efruitmandi, an initiative to build a farmer network for a better demand for the farm produce, Shah says the cherry growers of Kashmir mainly sell the fruit in local mandi or feed it to the Mandis of Maharashtra.

But due to restrictions in cargo shipment, the growers are incurring huge losses.

"As Mumbai Mandis are not fully functional due to pandemic," Shah

says, "the resultant distressed situation is badly impacting the supply chain and prices."

Delicate Fruit

As a first seasonal fruit in Kashmir Valley, cherry is mainly produced in Ganderbal, Tangmarg, and Shopian areas.

The harvest season starts in the last week of May and ends by the first week of July.

Though the cherries have blossomed in North Kashmir but in South Kashmir, the cherries will be ready for consumption, in over a fortnight's time, says AG Deewan, a cherry grower in Shopian, hoping that by then the market



condition improves. "I'm selling the cherry boxes at

a meagre price of Rs 50," says Deewan. "As a grower who used to sell cherry boxes at Rs 150 till last year, I'm at a loss."

The journey of this delicate fruit from the farm to the Mandi cost a lot to the growers.

Bifurcating the cost of each cherry box, Deewan explains, a single piece carries a price tag of Rs 12, add it with the labor wage of around Rs 700, and transportation cost of Rs 40 per box.

"Last year I sold around 200-250 cherry boxes in the local Mandi and 400-450 boxes to other states,"

Deewan recalls.

But this year, continues the cherry grower, business is quite uncertain.

Bumper Crop

As per the official figures maintained by Kashmir's Horticulture Department, 11,280 metric tonnes of cherries were produced in 2017, while the production surged to 11,789 metric tonnes in 2018.

The cherry production saw a drop with only 11,000 metric tonnes last year due to bad weather.

"The cherry production is good this year and we're receiving better varieties," says Zubair Ahmed »PAGE 02