



Maximum : 27°C
Minum : 14°C
Humidity : 58%

SUNSET
Today 07:41 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:19 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR

15 Shawwal-ul-Mukarram | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 120 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



Contact: -0194-2502327
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
YOUR COPY OF



HUMANS, HISTORY, HEADMASTER:
KASHMIR
IN VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

A GROUP of young Kashmiris have found a voice online where they're humanizing the conflict-battered lives of commoners. The effort remains to highlight the shrugged off stories which don't find a mention in the full-of-happening news ecosystem of the valley. At about the same time, the effort is being made by a Kashmiri woman to take education to the grassroots for enlightening and empowering the unprivileged community. And then, there're some budding Kashmiris making history appealing for netizens. All this and more is happening on Instagram and getting eyeballs at a time when the perpetual dissension is once again hogging headlines. There're rags to rich stories, the inspiring accounts of underdogs making big in life, and the tales of those who never got their due in the society grappling with searing struggles and strife.....

.....PANORAMA
P5

News Digest

Passport Office To Reopen Monday

Srinagar: Passport Office Srinagar will start functioning from Monday, June 8 after remaining closed for over two months due to lockdown in wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Regional Passport Officer Kashmir, BB Nagar said that people are advised to book or reschedule their appointments as per the availability of appointments on their website www.passportindia.gov.in. He further said that general public is also informed to adhere the multiple SOP's while visiting Passport Seva Kendra Srinagar on the date of appointment. These SOP's include download and install AarogyaSetu. **● P-02**

5 CRPF Men Injured After Gun Goes Off

Srinagar: At least five troopers were injured after a Pump Action Gun went off accidentally at a CRPF camp at Dignibal area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Dignibal area falls under the jurisdiction of police post Nagbal. Sources said that a Pump Action Gun fire accidentally went off at E-Coy 21 Battalion of CRPF at Dignibal in which 5 troopers were injured. The injured were immediately shifted to their main Battalion Headquarter located at Dalgate Srinagar. Sources identified the injured troopers as Head Constable Sanwar Mal and Constables Harendra Singh, Utpal Kant, Hanvipul Kumar and Amarjeet Singh. **● P-02**

2 Burglars Held In Bandipora: Police

Srinagar: Police in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday apprehended two burglars in the middle of the night when they were planning to decamp with good from a shop. Police sources said that during the intervening night of June 5 and 6, a patrolling party of police station Bandipora noticed some suspicious movement near a shop in main market Bandipora. Police party immediately approached the shop and apprehended two thieves red handed while they were attempting to commit the offence. They were identified as Sameer Ahmad from Kaloosa and Mehjoor Majeed from Bagh Bandipora. "In this connection case vide **● P-02**

Body Recovered in Rajouri

Srinagar: Police on Saturday recovered body of an unidentified man in Naushera area of Rajouri district. The body, believed to be of a man between 30 to 35 years, was found near Bagnoti nallah. A police party reached the spot and shifted it to SDH Naushera, they said. SDPO Naushera Zakir-Shaheen Mizrach confirmed that an unidentified male body has been found. He said efforts were on to ascertain the identity. "Inquest proceeding under 174CrPc has been launched," he said

Ladakh Stand-Off India, China Hold Talks To Diffuse Tension



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian and Chinese armies on Saturday held Lieutenant General-level talks in their first major attempt to resolve the month-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh, official sources said.

The Indian delegation was led by Lt General Harinder Singh, the general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese side was headed by the Commander of the Tibet Military District, government sources said. The talks were held at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

Without specifically mentioning the talks, an Indian Army spokesperson said: "Indian and Chinese officials continue to remain engaged through the established

military and diplomatic channels to address the current situation in the India-China border areas."

"At this stage therefore any speculative and unsubstantiated reporting about these engagements would not be helpful and the media is advised to refrain from such reporting," it said.

Saturday's meeting took place after 12 rounds of talks between local commanders of the two armies and three rounds of discussions at the level of major general-rank officials could not produce any tangible outcome, the sources said.

The high-level military dialogue took place a day after the two countries held diplomatic talks during which both sides agreed to handle their "differences" through peaceful discussions while respecting each other's sensitivities and concerns. Earlier, sources had **▶▶PAGE 02**

AT THIS STAGE THEREFORE ANY speculative and unsubstantiated reporting about these engagements would not be helpful and the media is advised to refrain from such reporting."

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC, IB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops Saturday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border in Poonch and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

According to the officials, Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages along the LoC and IB in the twin districts of Poonch and Kathua.

Indian troops guarding the bor-

ders retaliated befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns and there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side, the officials said.

At about 8 pm, a defence spokesperson said Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along LoC in Kirni and Qasba sectors in Poonch district.

Indian army retaliated and the cross-border shelling was continuing when last reports were received, he said. **▶▶PAGE 02**

Pak Army Says Indian Spy Drone Shot Down

The Pakistan Army on Saturday claimed to have shot down an "Indian spying quadcopter" allegedly intruding across the Line of Control (LoC). Military spokesman Major General Babar Iftikhar said that the mini copter violated the country's airspace in Khanjar sector of the LoC. "The quadcopter had intruded 500 metres on Pakistan's side of the LoC, he said in a statement. **● P-02**

Youth Shot Dead In Sopore

SRINAGAR: A youth was shot dead on Saturday by unidentified gunmen in Bomai area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Unknown gunmen appeared in Edipora locality of Bomai Saturday evening and opened fire upon a youth identified as Danish Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmed of village Bomai, officials said. The **● P-02**

Police 'Prevent' 3 Youth From Joining Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have prevented three youth from south Kashmir's Pulwama district from joining militant ranks, while arresting two militant associates for luring the trio.

Police received information that some youths of Tral area in south Kashmir, who had **● P-02**

4 Die Of Covid-19 In A Day, J&K Toll Jumps To 40

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Four more COVID-19 deaths were reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the disease in the Union Territory to 40, reports and officials said.

While three deaths took place in the Kashmir Valley, another was recorded in the Jammu region, they said.

A 70-year-old man from Shopian district of south Kashmir died at Chest Diseases Hospital, which is a designated COVID-19 facility, here on Saturday, the officials said.

They said the patient was admitted to the hospital this morning with pneumonia.

He was shifted from Shopian hospital and had tested positive for COVID-19, they added.

Another 70-year- **▶▶PAGE 02**



File Pic

143 More Test Covid-19 Positive In J&K

Srinagar- 143 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 3,467, officials said.

"143 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 100 of them are from Kashmir, 43 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 64 cases were reported from Shopian, 14 from Bandipora, 11 from Kathua, 10 from Jammu, nine from Baramulla, six from Udhampur, four each from Budgam, **● P-02**

Stranded Kashmiris In Dubai Pool Money To Take Flight Home

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Around 800 Kashmiris stranded in Dubai due to the COVID-19 outbreak have arranged two chartered flights for their return to the Valley and urged the Indian government to expedite the clearance for their landing in Srinagar.

They say they have been appealing to the Centre to evacuate them to the Valley as they were facing severe problems surviving there without jobs.

They say they are under distress with some of them facing



medical emergencies, visa issues and others running out of money and other means.

Sajad Ahmad, one of the stranded Kashmiris, said that so

far only one flight under the government's Vande Bharat Mission has been operated from Dubai.

The first flight under the mission was in May and **▶▶PAGE 02**

'Little Chance Of Haj 2020': Hajj Committee Offers 100% Refund

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pilgrims who wish to cancel their Haj journey for 2020 amid the outbreak of coronavirus worldwide, will be given 100 per cent refund, Haj Committee of India Chief Executive Officer Masood Ahmed Khan said on Saturday.

The Haj Committee of India is a statutory body under an Act of Parliament and functions as part of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Mr Khan said only a few weeks are left for preparatory works, and there has been no communication from authorities in Saudi Arabia about the Haj pilgrimage.

"There is little chance of Haj 2020 taking place. Even those who do not apply for **● P-02**

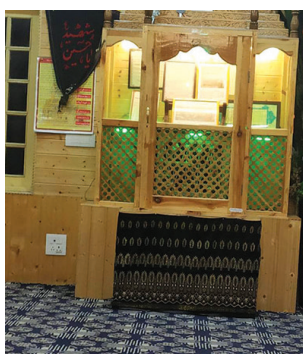
Chattabal Residents Foil Plot To Trigger Sectarian Rift

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Sajadabad locality in Chattabal quarter of the downtown Srinagar on Saturday foiled an attempt by an unidentified man to set afire a revered shrine aimed apparently at triggering a sectarian divide among two communities.

A masked man lobbed a petrol bomb at Astana Babul Hawaji, a shrine housing a rare manuscript of holy Quran handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim, 7th Imam and great grandson of Prophet of Islam (Pbuh), residents told Kashmir Observer.

The unidentified man, they said hurled the petrol bomb at around 12.45 in the night when most people in the locality were asleep.



"However, the bomb exploded in the compound causing no damage to the shrine. A motorbike parked there was damaged, they said. "I woke up after hearing the low intensity blast, said Sajad Ahmad Wani, an eyewitness who lives adjacent to the shrine. **▶▶PAGE 02**

Maulana Masroor Condemns Shrine Attack

Prominent Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari has strongly condemned the petrol bomb attack on Astana Babul-Hawaji at Sajadabad locality in Chattabal area of old Srinagar by unknown persons. Babul-Hawaji which houses the manuscript of holy Quran handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim, the 7th Shia Imam and the great grandson of Prophet of Islam, was targeted during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday by unknown persons with a petrol bomb. The bomb however... **Full Story On P3**

Employees Term Govt's Decision To Open Offices As 'Suicide Mission'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The employees in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday expressed strong resentment against the government's decision to reopen the offices in the Union Territory in the midst of a pandemic and the lockdown imposed to combat the deadly disease.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, many government employees expressed serious reservations over the government's move with some even describing it as a 'suicide mission'. The employees questioned government's wisdom of asking over 4 lakh employees to resume their duties when covid-19 cases are rapidly shooting up and the public transport is off the roads.

"The government is risking lives of employees and their families with



Kashmir Observer

their decision. How will the employees reach office in absence of transport? And how will they ensure social distancing at their work places. It is a suicide mission," Riyaz Ahmad,

an employee said.

An instructor at the government's Industrial Training Institute (ITI) told Kashmir Observer that the government should first lift the lockdown

and allow public transport to ply on the roads if the government believes Covid-19 situation in the Union territory is under control.

"My place of posting is roughly 30 kms from my residence. How will I attend my duties when I can't see a single bus or a cab plying on the road?" she asked.

President, Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam told Kashmir Observer that the government should have sanitized all the offices and made other necessary arrangements before asking the employees to attend their duties.

"And above all, the government should have thought how will the employees commute when the Valley is under lockdown. Even some employees from the middle class down have own transport. **▶▶PAGE 02**



A MAN ferries two young girls in his boat in Nigeen Lake of Srinagar on Saturday. Pic Abid Bhat