

News Digest

4 Militant Associates Held: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested four militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba involved in a grenade attack on a police post in Sopore town of Baramulla district. The arrested have been identified as Irfan Ahmed Mir, Irfan Ahmed Khan, QaiserRehman Khan and Suhail Ahmed Ganie, a police spokesperson said. "During the course of investigation, it was revealed that they were involved in... lobbing a grenade at Putkha police" ● P-02

4 Police Officers Transferred

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday ordered transfer of four police officers in the interest of administration. According to an order, Sheikh JunaidMehmood (JKPS), SSP, CID (Hqrs.), J&K, has been transferred and posted as SSP, APCR, Kashmir, vice Altaf Ahmad Khan (JKPS), SSP, APCR, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as SSP, CID (CI), Kashmir, vice ● P-02

ACB Files Charges Against Patwari

Jammu: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has filed a charge sheet against a revenue official in a two-year-old graft case in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, an agency spokesman said on Wednesday. The charge sheet was filed in the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Anti-Corruption, Kathua, against the then Patwari, Halqakhokhyal, Nazakat Ali, who was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000 ● P-02

Man Killed As Car Falls Into Gorge

Banihal: A man was killed on Wednesday when his car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Kehar Singh, a resident of Digiana in Jammu, was on his way to Srinagar when the accident took place near the Kelamohr in the early hours of the day, a police official said. ● P-02

CRPF Officer Dies Of Brain Hemorrhage

Srinagar: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer on Wednesday died of brain hemorrhage at the SKIMS Soura here ASI GD Sanatan Singh of West Bengal died at SKIMS here, two days after he suffered a brain hemorrhage, reports said. The officer was posted in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The deceased is said to be a native of West Bengal. (KINS)

Police Vehicle Turns Turtle, Driver Injured

Baramulla: A police driver was injured after the vehicle he was driving turned turtle at WanporaPanzalla area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Abullet proof Rakshak vehicle of police station Panzalla turned turtle causing injuries to the police driver, reports said. The police driver identified as Javid Ahmed Ganie was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Rohama for treatment. ● P-02

China Ramps Up Military Presence In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: China has significantly ramped up its military presence in Pangong Tso, Galwan valley and several other friction points in eastern Ladakh even as it is engaged in military and diplomatic talks with India to ease tension in the region, people familiar with the development said.

They said Chinese military has also deployed a sizeable number of its troops in Galwan Valley, the site of the violent clashes on June 15 that left 20 Indian soldiers dead.

The erection of a surveillance post by China in the area had triggered the clashes. However, Chinese troops have again put up some structure around patrolling point 14 in the area, notwithstanding India's stiff opposition, they said.

Over the last few days, China has been laying claim over Galwan Valley though India called it "untenable".



File Pic

Besides Pangong Tso and Galwan Valley, the two armies are also locked in a standoff in Demchok, Gogra Hot Spring and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh. A sizeable number of Chinese Army personnel transgressed into the Indian side of the LAC.

China has also increased the number of troops and weaponry in several other key sectors along the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and

Uttarakhand, the people cited above said.

The increase in military build-up by China along the LAC, the de-facto border between the two countries, came amid bilateral diplomatic and military talks.

Senior military commanders of the two armies on Monday held a nearly 11-hour meeting during which they arrived at a "mutual consensus" to "disengage" from all the friction points in

►PAGE 02

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LADAKH STAND-OFF

Army Chief Visits Forward Areas, Reviews Operational Readiness

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Army Chief Gen M Naravane on Wednesday visited various forward areas in eastern Ladakh and awarded 'Commendation Cards' to a number of soldiers for displaying exemplary grit and courage in dealing with recent face-offs with Chinese army, official sources said.

On the second day of his visit to Ladakh, Gen Naravane took stock of the Army's combat preparedness in four forward areas

Peaceful Border In Interest Of Both Countries: China

Asserting that China and India are "important neighbours to each other", Chinese foreign ministry on Wednesday said maintaining peace and tranquility along the Sino-India border is in the common interests of both the parties and requires joint efforts. In separate statements, the Chinese foreign and the defence ministries, however, repeated ● P-02

and interacted with soldiers deployed there besides holding detailed deliberations with ground commanders.

The Indian and Chinese armies were involved in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15 in which 20 Indian soldiers were

►PAGE 02

J&K Govt Reconstitutes PSC

DG Prosecution A Muftaba Among 6 New Appointees

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday reconstituted the Public Service Commission (PSC) by appointing six members, including an IPS officer.

The Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu today ordered appointment of S. Ahfad-ul-Mujtaba (Director General, Prosecution), Syed Iqbal Aga (retired development commissioner Works), Subash Gupta (retired District and Sessions Judge), Des Raj (Chief Engineer Public Works(R&B Jammu), Sameer Bharat i (retired IFS officer) and Showkat Ahmad Zargar (retired), Associate Professor(Mathematics), Higher Education Department) as members of the Public Service Commission for the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

The order added that all the new shall hold the position in PSC till at-



taining the age of sixty two years.

"Their appointment shall take effect from the date they assume the office," the official spokesperson added.

A 1984 batch Jammu & Kashmir Police Service officer, Muftaba has served in key positions and played a vital role in maintaining police -public relations during his service career of 36 years. Before his promotion as SP, he has served as deputy superintendent of Police and Sub- Divisional Police Officer in Poonch, Akhnor, Kishtwar and other areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

He has served as district ►PAGE 02

Covid Burial, Cremation Grounds In All Districts: Govt

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that every district will have a dedicated burial and cremation ground to ensure any untoward incident during the last rites.

According to an official spokesperson, Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam in a meeting today asked Deputy Commissioners to notify cemetery/ cremation grounds exclusively for COVID victims so as to prevent any untoward incidence regarding their last rituals.

He also directed Divisional Commissioners, Jammu and Kashmir to undertake quality audits of administrative quarantine centres in respective provinces and suggest



File Pic Abid Bhat

measures for improvement.

Subrahmanyam, according to the official spokesperson also directed Deputy Commissioners to adopt liberal release policy at administrative quarantine centres. He added that if the quarantined

persons test negative, as per existing Standard Operating Procedure, they can be sent to 'home quarantine' immediately.

Regarding exit policy for de-notification of red/containment zones, the Chief Secretary instructed ►PAGE 02

India Plotting Attack On Pakistan To Divert Attention: Qureshi



Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: A day after Pakistan was asked to reduce its staff at its High Commission in New Delhi by half, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday accused India of plotting an attack on his country to divert its Opposition's attention from its border dispute with China.

Speaking to Geo Pakistan, Qureshi said, "India's mood is clear [for all to see] as it wants to divert attention from its border dispute

with China to Pakistan."

He claimed that India was finding excuses to launch a 'false flag operation' against Pakistan. But he did not elaborate or give any evidence.

"The Opposition in India is raising questions that their government can't answer," he said, referring to the criticism being faced by the Modi government regarding its response to the border dispute with China in the Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed. ►PAGE 02

Srinagar Woman Dies Of Covid-19, J&K Toll Reaches 88

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A 48-year-old Covid-19 positive woman from Srinagar died at a hospital here on Wednesday, taking the number of the fatalities due to the disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 88, officials said.

The woman, a resident of Barzulla area of the city, passed away at SKIMS Soura Hospital at around 5:19 am, the officials said.

The patient was admitted in the infectious disease block of the hospital as a case of chronic myeloid leukemia with bone marrow transplant and fungal pneumonia, they said.

The cause of death was ar-

11 Cops, 4 Paramilitary Men Among 186 Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday reported 184 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including 11 cops and four paramilitary personnel, taking the overall number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 6422. "186 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 158 of them are from Kashmir, 28 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 37 cases were reported from ● P-02

rhythmia with cardiopulmonary arrest, they added.

With this death, the number of COVID-19 related fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 88— 78 in Valley and 10 in Jammu division.

Srinagar, with 21 deaths tops

the list of Covid-19 fatalities followed by 14 in Baramulla, 11 in Kulgam, 10 in Shopian, seven in Jammu, six each in Budgam & Anantnag, five in Kupwara, four in Pulwama and one each in Baniptora, Udhampur, Doda and Rajouri districts.

Haj-2020 Aspirants To Get Refund



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee on Wednesday announced to refund the amount deposited by aspirants to undertake Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

In a statement issued here, an official spokesperson said that the payment deposited by the selected Haj Pilgrims shall be refunded to them through Direct Transfer mechanism without any deduction and shall be deposited in their bank accounts furnished by the concerned pilgrims at the time of submission of Haj application forms for Haj 2020.

"In case of any change ● P-02

A Year-Long Agonised Wait That Ended With An Unheeded Appeal

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: At around 5 on the morning of June 21, Farooq Ahmad Langoo woke up to the call he was expecting for a year now. His pulse shot up, as he stared at his phone screen flashing a known number. Is it finally about him, he thought, before anxiously answering the call. "Come to the station immediately along with your wife," the caller, a cop from a local police station in Qamarwari, made it curt.

As soon as he hung up, the couple cried, knowing the possible fate of their son who had suddenly left home a year back without giving them any whiff of his intentions.

Since then, the couple who aged swiftly in one last year dusted miles

to bring their insurgent son back home, but nothing helped.

But now, the cop caller informed them that their son might be one of the militants trapped inside a residential house at Zoonimar, Srinagar.

"Zane dich mae dilan gawahi (As if my heart confirmed it)," Langoo told Kashmir Observer, two days after his son was killed in an encounter with armed forces, along with his two associates.

The state intelligence grid had traced Farooq's insurgent son in a residential house on the evening of June 20.

Shakoor Farooq, 18, was accompanied by Shahid Ahmad Bhat of Semthan Bijbehara and Mohsin Aslam of Anchar Soura, Srinagar.

Along with his wailing wife and



Farooq Ahmad Langoo with his wife at Zonimar encounter site. Photo by AbidBhat

grief-stricken elder brother, anxious Farooq reached the police station—where an armoured vehicle

was waiting for them. They were to be ferried to the soon-to-be explosive site.

Driven in the wee hours towards the sieged site on the deserted streets of Srinagar, the couple held hands throughout that short tormenting journey from Qamarwari to Zonimar. They were beseeching Almighty for their son's safety.

By the time the vehicle came to a halt, the parents stepped out on the street filled with a battery of counterinsurgents.

They were soon asked to try to save their son's life one last time.

Sobbing, the parents shortly raised a heartbreaking cry, which resounded in the sieged neighbourhood nestled on the banks of Kushalsar wetland.

"We took desperate turns to plead with our son to drop the weapon and surrender but there

was no response," Farooq said.

The helpless parents were repeatedly breaking down, with their throats turning parched with each unheeded appeal. But for the sake of their son, they kept trying.

In Kashmir's strife-torn landscape, parents exhorting their insurgent sons to drop weapon and surrender is nothing new. Such appeals have become one last ditch-effort to save the lives of the armed Kashmiris. But mostly, they go unnoticed.

A year ago

It was a routine sunny day of June 2019 when Farooq's son suddenly left home. After failing to find him, the family filed a missing report with police. A search spanning over a month ended when the father was

called by cops and shown a picture.

"I fell on the floor seeing my son brandishing a pistol in the photo," Farooq recalled. "I was told he has become a militant."

Later he would drag his feet from the police station and took what he recalled the long, arduous walk back home, where he first broke down, before informing his wife about their son's insurgent path.

After wailing, came the haunting realization making the parents of insurgents mentally prepare for the day when they receive the final call.

But one question was still unanswered: What pushed their 2002-born son to an extreme path?

"I don't know why he decided to pick up the gun," the father said. "It was his decision." ►PAGE 02