

Maximum : 24°C
Minimum : 16°C
Humidity : 70%
SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:25 AM

News Digest

Headless Body Found In Sumbal

Srinagar: Police on Saturday recovered a headless body from river Jhelum near Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Official sources said that the remains were also without legs and right-hand and some passerby first spotted it who subsequently alerted the police. Confirming the recovery of the body, Station House Officer Muneeb-ul-Islam said the body is decomposed and "seems that it's around 30 days old."

"The body without head, right hand and legs was recovered and investigations have been started," he said, adding, "it is a decomposed one and it" **P-02**

Another Quake Jolts Kashmir Valley

Srinagar: An earthquake of magnitude 4.2 was reported near Hanley in Jammu and Kashmir this evening, according to India's National Center for Seismology. The epicentre of the earthquake was 427 km northeast of Hanley, Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said. The earthquake struck at 5:42 PM at a depth of 150 km from the surface.

Pak FM Tests Positive For COVID-19

Islamabad, Jul 4 (PTI) Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was shifted to a military hospital in Rawalpindi on Saturday, a day after he tested positive for the coronavirus and went into self-isolation. Qureshi on Friday announced that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, joining a long list of Pakistani lawmakers who have contracted the deadly virus. "I have now tested positive for Covid-19. By the grace of Allah, I feel strong and energetic. I will continue to carry on my duties from home. Please keep me in your prayers," he said in a tweet. Qureshi has been moved to Combined Military Hospital in **P-02**

Missing Youth's Body Found In Canal

Ganderbal: Body of a youth who was missing for the last three days was found in power canal in Ganderbal on Saturday evening. An official said that one Mudassir Ahmed Khan son of Late Sarfaraz Khan, a resident of Khyber Mohalla Gutlibagh Ganderbal had gone missing three days ago. He said that today his body was found in a power canal. He further added that the youth was mentally unsound and body will be handed over to family after legal formalities—

Aarogya-Setu For Ganderbal Shopkeepers

Ganderbal: As the government of Jammu and Kashmir has classified district Ganderbal as red zone, the District Magistrate (DM) Ganderbal, Shafqat Iqbal on Saturday issued an order for imposition of restrictions under the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and under section 144 CrPc in district Ganderbal. The order has been issued to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and break the transmission chain of the virus. For operating shops and establishments of the district the schedule and timing has **P-02**

1703 Passengers Arrive In Srinagar In 13 Flights

JAMMU: On Day 41 of resumption of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 21 domestic flights with 2,405 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports.

A total of 702 passengers aboard 8 regular commercial flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 13 domestic flights with about 1703 passengers on board landed at Srinagar Airport today. After arrival, all the passengers were tested for the COVID-19 virus and transported to their destinations at both the airports amid strict observance of all necessary preventive protocols.

The Government has made elaborate arrangements for the arrival, screening, sampling and proper transportation of the passengers to the quarantine centers taking special care of guidelines and **PAGE 02**

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Kupwara's Killer Well And A Wedding Tragedy

Auqib Javeed

ZAHIDA was looking forward to be swarmed by her happy kin who now take turns to console her.

But as the thirty-year-old soon-to-be bride remains inconsolable, a horde of villagers walk in with long faces, only to make her home a packed house of mourners.

Just six days before her wedding, the Kupwara girl lost her brothers to a killer well.

"In Kashmir, happy occasions are known to become mourning events," said Zahida's cousin. "But

losing your affable brothers just days before your dream day in life is worse than thousand deaths!"

The tragic incident took place on July 2, when Zahida heard a shrilling noise outside her home. Soon as her dead siblings were brought amid sobs and shrieks, she saw her lifelong cherished moment collapsing in a jiffy.

The dead brothers had gone to make wedding preparations for their sister.

The incident occurred in the Dard Hari Sangdan area of Kupwara's Kralpora area. The four villagers including Zahida's



two siblings had left home to clean a disused well.

Among them, Mohammad Altaf Sheikh first went inside the well. While cleaning, he had suddenly collapsed. The other three—Mumtaz Ahmad, Altaf Khan and Showkat Khan—were working outside. They soon went inside, one by one, on a rescue mission.

None of them came out alive.

By the time villagers learned about the tragic event, lot of time had already elapsed. Amid hue and cry, it took hectic efforts from locals, police and other allied departments to retrieve the trapped bodies from the well. They were evacuated to a nearby health facility.

"The deceased were brought dead to the hospital," Dr. Kounsar Amin, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, told Kashmir Observer. "They apparently died due to suffocation. A post-mortem report is still awaited."

As per the villagers, some "inert

gas" leaked by the weathered walls of the well choked the four men to death. While only an investigation will clear the picture, the loss has already numbed the hamlet.

Among the deceased, Altaf Khan and Showkat Khan, residents of Dard Hari Sangdan, were preparing for the marriage of their sister for months.

"Everything was going well, but we had water scarcity in the village," Nisar Khan, brother of the deceased siblings, told Kashmir Observer. "One has to travel 3 kilometres to fetch water here."

The family had **PAGE 02**

2 Militants Killed, 3 Soldiers Injured In Kulgam Encounter

120 Militants Killed This Year So Far: Police



Observer News Service

KULGAM: Two unidentified militants were killed while three soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were injured in an encounter that broke out Saturday afternoon in Arreh Mohanpora village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to reports received here, joint teams of police, Army's 34 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation following inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

As the joint team of forces approached the house where militants were present they reportedly came under fire from inside.

An encounter ensued which ended late in the evening. In the initial bout of firing one militant was killed and three soldiers were injured. As the encounter progressed, one more militant was killed in the evening.

Police on its official twitter handle confirmed that two militants have been killed in Kulgam encounter and the search operation was on in the area. Authorities have snapped the mobile internet services in the area as a precautionary measure. Police however had not revealed the identity of the slain militants when this report was being filed.

This is the 17th such encounter in the southern districts since **PAGE 02**

IGP Visits Slain Civilian's Family In HMT Area

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of police Kashmir Vijay Kumar along with other senior police officers on Saturday visited the family of a civilian who was killed at Sopore earlier this week.

"IGP Kashmir along with other senior police officers #visited the #be-raved family of #civilian who was killed during #militant incident at Sopore. IGP #condoled the family members and prayed for the #departed soul," police said in a tweet.

"I heard their grievances and I cleared all aspects. I also assured them an impartial investigation (into the incident)," Kumar said. "I also assured family to show CCTV footage if they wish to see the same," he added.

The civilian, Bashir Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Mohammad Khan of Mustafa Colony HMT Srinagar, was killed in a firing incident near



Nowpora crossing Model Town Sopore on July 1.

Police says the civilian was killed in militant firing which also saw killing of a CRPF trooper and injuries to three other paramilitary men.

However, in a video statement that was shared on social media, slain man's son Suhail Ahmad alleged his father was killed by the CRPF personnel.

Suhail said the CRPF personnel "dragged him from his car and shot him dead" **PAGE 02**

Govt Hints At 'Restricted' Amarnath Yatra This Year

500 Yatris To Visit Cave Per Day For 15 Days; Daily Puja To Be Telecast Live

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Asserting that the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra would have to be undertaken in a "restricted manner" due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday said only 500 pilgrims would be allowed per day by road from Jammu to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine.

It also said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for testing of persons entering the Union Territory would also be applicable to the intending Amarnath pilgrims.

"The yatra this year will have to be undertaken in a restricted manner so that the SoPs for COVID-19 are strictly adhered to during the conduct of the yatra... a maximum of 500 yatris only could be allowed per day by road from Jammu," Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam said.



He was chairing a meeting of the sub-committee constituted by the Supreme Court for the yatra here.

In the meeting, he reviewed the arrangements, including security for the pilgrimage, an official spokesman said.

The 42-day yatra was scheduled to commence from the twin tracks

of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Batal in Ganderbal on June 23 but was delayed due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

According to sources, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) is planning to undertake the yatra in the last week of July for a short duration of 15 days. **PAGE 02**

Medical Staff, Cops Pelted With Stones In Sopore

Team Had Reached Dooru Village To Shift Covid Patient To Hospital

SOPORE: A team of medical staff and policemen were on Saturday pelted with stones when they reached Duroo area of Sopore to shift a COVID patient to the hospital.

According to local news gathering agency KNO a team was sent to Duroo Sopore for lifting COVID-19 positive patient to the hospital.

However, they said soon after they entered the area, some locals pelted stones on the Medical staff and police party.

"Amid stone pelting, the police team managed to rescue the Medical staff," they said

Sopore police in a statement said that at about 08:25 PM, while assisting the medical team for lifting COVID positive patient at Duroo, unknown stone pelters took advantage of darkness and pelted **P-02**

Center Okays Rs 574.16 Cr Annual Plan For Highways

3 Fly-Overs Coming Up At Bemina, Sanatnagar, Nawgam

JAMMU: The Center government has approved an annual plan worth Rs. 574.16 crore for NH (O) works in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for financial year 2020-21.

As per a communiqué received here in this regard, the Union Ministry of RoadTransport and Highways has asked for preparation of estimates for the proposed works in the approved annual plan incorporating the technical parameters and designs as per IRC codal provisions/latest circulars of the Ministry and submission to the Ministry for consideration.

The major works incorporated in the approved annual plan included expressway, four laning, construction of 6 km 3rd bypass



on NH-444 Shopian bypass with Rs. 120 crore, construction of 13.60 km bypasses in Pulwama and Kulgam with Rs.62.98 crore, construction of 3.23 km three fly-overs in Srinagar on NH-44 at Bemina, Sanatnagar and Nawgam with Rs. 220.68 crore under ROB/RUBS, strengthening/IRQP works of 15.25 km with Rs. 20, missing link/new national highways, widening to two lane with or without strengthening, paved shoulders, widening/reconstruction **PAGE 02**

Kupwara Lawyers Under Scanner After 2 Test Positive

KUPWARA: A local court has written to the Health Department to conduct Covid-19 tests for all advocates practicing in Kupwara Court here in North Kashmir.

The letter has been forwarded to Chief Medical Officer Kupwara after two layers in the court were tested positive for Covid-19. Sub Judge Kupwara Javadi Alam said that he has written a letter to CMO Kupwara asking her to go for mass testing inside court.

"Two advocates have been tested positive for Covid-19 and both these lawyers were practicing in the court, mingling with other lawyer friends and clients. In order to contain the spread of Covid-19 inside the court, mass testing has become inevitable," he said.

JKSSB Releases 31 Recommendations Of Withheld Cases

JAMMU: The 172nd Board meeting of the J&K Services Selection Board was held under the Chairmanship of Khalid Jahangir, Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board at Central office JKSSB, Seh-kari Bhawan, Bahu Plaza, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Members of the Board, M. Shafiq Chak, Pritam Lal Atri and Harvinder Kour, Controller of Examination JKSSB Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Secretary, JKSSB Ranjeet Singh, officials assisted the Board in conduct of its proceedings.

Further, the Kashmirir based Members which include Nazir Ahmad Khwaza, Ashiq Hussain Lily and Prof. Tasleema Peer attended the meeting through video-conferencing. In addition, Under Secretary Kashif, AO JKSSB Altaf Hussain, Under Secretary Harjinder

JKSSB
Jammu and Kashmir Services
Selection Board

Singh and other officials assisted the meeting through video-conferencing from Srinagar.

The agenda of the meeting included only cases of withheld recommendations relating to various posts like Jr Staff Nurses of Five new GMCs, Teachers and Junior Assistant (Migrants), Naib Tehsildar, Dental Technician GMC, MRW, Driver GMCs, etc.

The Board examined 47cases and after due deliberations decided to approve release of recommendations in respect of 31 cases. Five candidates were declared as Not Eligible for not possessing requisite qualification as **PAGE 02**

Police Rakshak Knocks Down Scooty Rider

KUPWARA: A youth died on spot after his Scooty collided with a police van in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The incident occurred at Dooniwari Lolab area of Kupwara. Sources said that a youth with pillion rider was on way from Maidanpora Lolab towards Kupwara when the accident took place. While reaching Dooniwari Lolab, the Scooty (JK09B-1504) collided with a Rakshak vehicle of Station House Officer Police Station Sogam. The rider died on spot while another youth was shifted to hospital in critical condition. Sources identified the deceased youth as Saqib Hussain son of Ghulam Hasan of Khumriya Kupwara while the injured has been identified as Faisal Subhan of Bumhama. A police official while confirming the incident said that an FIR vide number 97/2020 under section 304, 279 has been registered at police station Kupwara.