



Maximum : 29°C
Minimum : 17°C
Humidity : 47%

SUNSET
Today 07:38 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:36 AM



News Digest

Jaish Module Busted, 3 Held: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested three Jaish-e-Muhammad workers from central Kashmir's Budgam district. On a credible input, police, army's 50RR and the personnel of CRPF 29 battalion arrested 3 JeM associated at a checkpoint in Chadoora area of the district, a police spokesperson said. He said incriminating materials, including 40 rounds of AK-47, 02 detonators and 03 JeM matrix sheets were recovered from their possession. The police spokesperson identified the arrested OGWs as Javaid Ahmad Bhat resident of Pulwama, Ajaz Wani resident of Chitroodangerpora and Aqib Ganaie resident of Khansaib. "As per the police records, they were involved in providing logistic support and shelter to the active militants of JeM operating in the area," the police spokesperson said. "Case FIR No. 120/2020 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Chadoora and further investigation into the case has been initiated," he added.

Girl Drowns In Shopian Stream

SRINAGAR: A teenage girl on Wednesday died of drowning in a nallah in south Kashmir's Shopian district. 13-year-old Shahnaz Bano of Kabukut Rajouri slipped into nallah Gramtoo at Mandujan in Shopian when she was washing some utensils, reports said. She was rescued from the nallah and taken to the district hospital Shopian. However, the doctors there declared her brought dead. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident (KNS)

11 Gamblers Held In Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested 11 gamblers in a raid in Zakoora area of the city outskirts. Acting on an input, a police team carried out a raid on gambling site near Pathan Colony Zakoora and arrested 11 gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 118495 and sets of playing cards were seized from the spot. The accused were shifted to police station Zakoora after arrest. "Accordingly, a case FIR No. 68/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Zakoora and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

Man Held For Attempt To Murder

JAMMU: A man was arrested in connection with an attempt to murder case in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. Identified as Parveen Kumar, the man is accused of attacking a person, Krishan Lal, with a sharp-edged weapon on Tuesday night and severely injuring him, they said. A complaint was filed in this regard by Sukhdev Raj, brother of the victim, the police said. Lal is undergoing treatment at a hospital, they added. In separate incidents, two people were arrested in Poonch district on Wednesday in connection with rioting and other criminal cases. The duo, Liyaqat Hussain and Ghulam Din, were held following raids at multiple locations in Gursai, the police said.

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. "At about 1915 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Kirni and Qasba sectors of Poonch district," a defence spokesman said. Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he added. Pakistani troops on Tuesday had shelled forward areas along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district. On July 18, three civilians were killed when Pakistan violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district. ● P-02

JK Govt Accords Brigadier Rank Like Status To BDC Chairpersons

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, the administration on Wednesday amended rules to give block development council chairpersons a status equivalent to that of an Army brigadier. According to the warrant of precedence issued by the Hospitality and Protocol Department of Jammu and Kashmir, BDC chairpersons have been placed at serial number 28. They are placed alongside district magistrates, district and sessions judge, major heads of departments, presidents of municipal committees and municipal councils and officers of the rank of brigadier. ● P-02

Govt Locks Down 9 Districts Till July 27

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has imposed a complete lockdown across Kashmir Valley, except for Bandipore district till July 27, to stem the spread of COVID-19, officials said on Wednesday.

The lockdown, which came into effect on Wednesday evening, will last till 6 am of July 27, they said.

"Complete lockdown in all Red districts (excluding Bandipora) of Kmr (Kashmir) Div (Division) from today evening till 6 am on 27-7-2020," the Jammu and Kashmir administration's Department of Information and Public Relations said on Twitter.

"Agriculture, horticulture and construction activities will continue in accordance with disaster management guidelines. The movement of goods carriers, LPG and oil tankers will also continue unhindered," it added.



A CRPF PERSONAL stands guard on a barricaded road in Srinagar's Lal Chowk during a lockdown. File pic, Abid Bhat

Markets To Open For 3-Days From July 28: Div Com

The markets in Kashmir valley will remain open for three days from July 28 to allow people to purchase sacrificial animals and other necessary items in view of the Eid-ul-Adha festival, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said Wednesday. This Div Com said this while chairing a meeting to review Eid arrangements, an official spokesperson said. Pole also directed all DCs of Kashmir to establish sale centers where people can purchase the sacrificial animals with proper COVID-19 protocol. "He instructed DCs to open up markets in a phased manner with different timings to avoid gatherings and violation of social distancing protocol by the public thronging market places during these three days deals," the official spokesperson said. In order to avoid unnecessary rush, he said the ● P-02

SKIMS Procures Remdesivir After KO Reports Shortage

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The anti-viral drug Remdesivir has finally arrived at the premier SK Institute of medical sciences here, three days after Kashmir Observer reported shortage of the vital drug at the tertiary care hospital.

Director, SKIMS Dr A G Ahangar told Kashmir Observer that they have received 500 doses and more were arriving within a few days.

Doctors in Kashmir have maintained that the drug is "vital" and reduces the risk of death among Covid-19 patients. However, according to reports

the cost of drugs is too high that poor men can hardly afford.

On July 18, Kashmir Observer published a news report about the shortage of the vital drug at the SKIMS and the panic caused by the unavailability of the drug among the patients.

Dr Ahangar said that the drug will cost around 30,000 and they will provide it with no-profit-no loss.

"I don't know the exact cost but it might cost around 30,000" he said.

When asked if it was affordable he said "we are selling it on company cost and whether it is too costly or less costly, I can't say," he added. ● PAGE 02

China Remains In Ladakh Despite Pull Out Promise: Report

Agencies

NEW DELHI: It seems that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is not in a mood to de-escalate the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as it has continued deployment of around 40,000 troops in its front and depth areas for the Eastern Ladakh sector.

The Chinese are also not honouring their commitment for disengagement at the friction points in Eastern Ladakh and not moving back as per the agreed terms during the multiple rounds of talks at the government and Army levels and intervention at the senior level like the one done by the National Security Advisor couple of weeks ago, the sources said.

IAF's Assets Deployment In Ladakh Sent Signal To Adversary: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday complimented the Indian Air Force for its rapid deployment of assets at forward locations in response to the border row with China in eastern Ladakh, saying its Balakot strike and the current combat readiness have sent a strong message to "adversaries". ● P-02

"The Chinese have not shown any signs of de-escalation as they continue to maintain their heavy troop deployment of almost 40,000 troops supported by heavy weaponry like air defence systems, armoured personnel carriers and long-range artillery in front and depth areas," sources said. The disengagement process has

also not made any progress since the last round of talks between the two Corps Commanders held last week and ground positions have also not changed, the sources said.

The Chinese are also showing reluctance in moving out of the Finger 5 area and retreat back to their permanent location in Sirijap as they want to create an ● PAGE 02

Ikhwani-Turned-Cop Shot Dead In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Wednesday shot dead an Ikhwani-turned policeman in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

58-year-old cop Abdul Rashid Dar was fired upon by suspected militants at Furrah area in Mir Bazar area of Kulgam on Wednesday evening, officials said. Dar was critically injured in the attack.

He was shifted to the hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead on arrival, officials said. Medical superintendent GMC Anantnag Dr Majid Mahrib confirmed that the cop was brought dead to the hospital.

Dar, according to a local news agency GNS was a pro-government gunman. Meanwhile, soon after the attack, the government forces reached the area and launched a cordon and search operation to nab the assailants

Heat Wave Melts Ice Lingam At Amarnath Cave Shrine

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The naturally formed ice lingam in Amarnath cave shrine has melted almost completely due to the soaring mercury in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Deccan Chronicle reported Wednesday.

The report that came a day after the government announced cancellation of the annual pilgrimage, said that the ice lingam has melted over 80 percent due to the high temperature in the Valley. The report said that though the Shiv Lingam had fully formed by mid-June but its size and girth started decreasing thereafter.

"It was reduced to half by the first week of July and when de-



File Pic: Abid Bhat

fence minister Rajnath Singh visited the place of worship on July 18, it had melted more than 80 percent," the report added.

Last week, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court asked Shri

Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) to take an urgent decision on holding the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine, located in the higher reaches of South Kashmir, keeping in mind the threat of ● PAGE 02

J&K Govt Transfers 6 Officers

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered transfer of six officers in the interest of administration.

As per an order, Shrikant Bala-saheb Suse (IAS), Sub Divisional Magistrate, has been transferred and posted as additional deputy Commissioner in the office of divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Syed Naseer Ahmad, KAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pattan, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Pattan, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pahalgam. "He shall also hold the charge of Sub-Registrar, Pahalgam, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Abhishake Abrol, Deputy Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, has been transferred and posted as ● P-02

China Has Never Been Out Of Situation In Kashmir: Naeem Akhtar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Minister and senior leader of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Naeem Akhtar said on Wednesday that India was on the path of becoming a Hindu Rashtra while China has decided to become a world power after rediscovering the power of land routes.

Akhtar, who was released last month after 10-month detention following the abrogation of J&K's special status on August 5, last year, told Kashmir Observer in an exclusive interview that the Kashmir situation continues to be grim as "everything is being let loose on this place".

The founding PDP leader also said that the government faces a great credibility crisis among the people of Kashmir.



Replying to a question about the India-China stand-off in Ladakh, Akhtar said that a new strategic challenge is shaping up for India as new blocks are being created in the neighborhood.

"China has decided it has to become a world power, that it has to control the world. They have achieved that in 70 years. But India in 2014 decided it has to become a Hindu Rashtra. That's their vision," he said.

Read Full Interview On P5

Govt Likely To Release Political Prisoners Ahead Of Eid

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government has decided to release all political prisoners and lift curbs on the movement of political leaders ahead of Eid as a major confidence building measure after the abrogation of Article 370.

Government of India has given green signal to Lt Governor administration for the release of political prisoners, a local news agency KNS reported while quoting sources.

The initiative has been taken after J&K parties, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP),



File Pic

Apni party, CPI (M), People's Conference demanded the release of all political leaders ahead of the upcoming Eid festival in the Valley.

Recently, J&K Apni Party delegation led by Muhammad Altaf Bukhari in a meeting with Lt Governor had demanded release of all Political prisoners.

The report said that Modi-led government is expecting the political parties to start their political activities so that a semblance of normalcy is sensed on ground.

The report added that former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, People's Conference Chief and Former Minister Sajad ● PAGE 02

2.5 Lakh Apply For 8575 Class IV Jobs In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Nearly 2.50 lakh candidates have submitted applications to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for 8575 Class IV posts announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration recently.

According to an official spokesperson, till Wednesday morning, 2,43,510 registrations have been done by the candidates on JKSSB's Online Portal, since the commencement of online application submission from 10th July, 2020 and 1,26,250 candidates completed their online application submission process for Class IV posts.

"Also 6,390 applications have been submitted online for the post of Accounts Assistant. It has been

noted that about 97,000 unique visitors visited the online application portal of JKSSB yesterday," the official spokesperson said.

Pertinently, JKSSB has advertised 8575 Class IV posts for District/Divisional/Union Territory cadre in various departments under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to the Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020, in pursuance of General Administration Department's Revised Indent No. GAD/Mtg/RB-IV/50/2020 Dated 22.06.2020 under Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated 26.06.2020.

Further, the Board has operationalized two helplines one each at Srinagar and Jammu for the convenience of aspirants.

"In addition, any person who finds difficulty in submission ● PAGE 02