



Maximum : 32°C SUNSET
Today 07:36 PM
Minimum : 18°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 52% Tomorrow 05:38 AM



News Digest

Doda Cleric Booked For Sedition

Bhaderwah (Doda)- Police on Saturday booked the president of Anjuman-e-Islamia, Bhaderwah for making a "provocative and seditious" statement during Friday prayers, an officer said. The FIR was registered against Pervaiz Ahmed Sheikh at the Bhaderwah Police Station for disobeying the orders of the district magistrate by organising Friday prayers, the officer said. The Anjuman president has been booked under sections 124 A (sedition) and 153 A ● P-02

India, Pak Trade Fire Along LoC

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops on Saturday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. The Pakistani troops fired from small arms and shelled mortars towards the forward posts along the LoC in Mankote sector this evening, officials said. The officials said the Indian Army retaliated befittingly. This was the fifth day that the Pakistani forces have violated the ceasefire along the LoC. The Pakistani troops had shelled areas along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Searches Carried Out In Tral

Srinagar: Government forces on Saturday carried out a cordon and search operation in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports, police and army cordoned off Brantial area of Tral town after receiving inputs about the movement of militants. The joint team sealed all the entry and exit points before starting search operation. Early this month, the area witnesses a fierce 20-hour long gunfight between militants and the government forces during which the former managed to flee.

Matric Pass 'Doctor' Held In Baramulla

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday arrested a man, who was posing as a doctor and running a clinic in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Hilal Ahmed Hajam of Kreeri was arrested by police after it surfaced that he had been practicing as a doctor in Mangan area of the district without holding any degree. "He has studied only upto class 10 and has been minting money from the people by pretending to be a doctor by profession since the past many years. Today, we arrested him from his clinic at Mangan, Kreeri and he has been booked under ● P-02

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Structures

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday demolished several illegal structures during a drive in parts of this capital city. The Enforcement Wing of LAWDA demolished two illegal constructions including one concrete hut and a plinth with some concrete block bricks over it, in the up hills of the Dossari Nallah Bonigam Shalimar, an official spokesperson said. He said the structures were raised in brazen violation of the laws as the violators had not even bothered to seek any ● P-02

KU Student Booked For 'Unlawful Activities'

SRINAGAR: A Kashmir University student from south Kashmir's Shopian district has been arrested in a case filed against him under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), two years ago.

26-year-old Aaqib Ahmed Malik of Aglar village of Shopian was summoned on Friday by police for questioning in a case registered in 2018 under section 13 of Unlawful Activities Act at the Police Station Nigeen here, reports said. A post-graduate biochemistry student, Malik was detained by the police on Saturday after his alleged role in Unlawful Activities was established.

"A case Fir No 68/2018 under section 13 of Unlawful Activities Act stands registered at Police Station Nigeen. The role of the student has been established and subsequently

JNU Student Booked For Criticising Army

Delhi police has begun investigation into a complaint filed against a student of the Jawaharlal Nehru University for allegedly posting offensive comment against the Indian Army, officials said Saturday. Tajinder Yadav, a social worker, filed an FIR at Kapashera police station on July 8, claiming ● P-02

he has been detained," an official told local news agency KNT. Meanwhile, Malik's family suspect that he has been detained over a protest he held at the ● PAGE 02

PAGE 1 Anchor

KO Web Desk

THE stage was set. Artists were prepared. Arrangements were done. Advertisers were ready. But then, COVID hit the world.

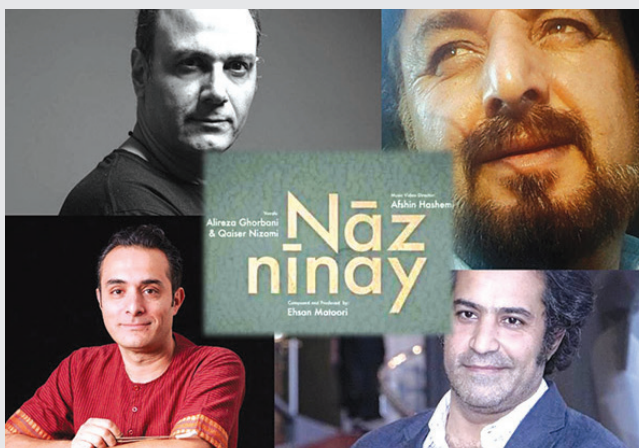
The subsequent viral lockdown was a big blow for Qaisar Nizami, a celebrated Kashmiri musician and singer on his first visit to the United States (US) to perform and present at an event supposed to be held on March 20 at the University of North Texas (UNT) College of Music, a premier institute for music education.

With a travel ban imposed by the Government of India for an indefinite period soon after his arrival,

Nizami was stranded in the country for the next two and a half months.

Amidst continuing frustration and helplessness, his host Dr. Sadaf Munshi, a professor of Linguistics at the UNT introduced Nizami to her friend, Ehsan Matoori, a US-based musician and composer of Iranian origin. Matoori was also held back in Texas after the cancellation of a series of his upcoming concerts in New York and California.

The two artists joined hands with Dr. Munshi's colleague Dr. Vivek Virani, and Ali Montazeri, a graduate student at the university, for a live virtual performance which was broadcasted from Munshi's residence after the University was shut down for all in-person events.



"I've never organized a virtual concert before and it was very challenging for me," Dr. Munshi told Kashmir Observer. She had to

organize everything for the event from mikes to décor.

Dr. Munshi has been working on the project for one year and wanted people to hear the artists, so she decided to go for the virtual show. "I didn't have a choice," she said, adding, "the artists were here so I decided to broadcast the performance on YouTube."

On being asked about the virtual experience, Dr. Munshi said that it took them a while to make a decision but the outcome got a good response. "It would be better on stage but tough times call for new initiatives," said the optimistic professor.

The spread of the coronavirus has had a devastating impact on people around the world. While

the pandemic has hit various sectors enormously, the performing arts sector was especially hit with a strong blow. Countless cultural, academic, and artistic events were canceled globally. The human and financial impacts of the crisis on the arts became a topic of several premier research studies.

"In the United States alone," Dr. Munshi continued, "cancellations and closings took place at thousands of organizations and institutions, with two-thirds of the nation's artists, left unemployed." In these saturnine times, when the whole world is fighting against COVID, these artists who met by chance have decided to take their collaboration to new heights. ● PAGE 02

2 Militants Killed In Encounter On Srinagar Outskirts

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A top commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was among two militants killed in an encounter with the state forces in Ranbirgarh Panzina area on the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday, police said.

The state forces launched a cordon and search operation in Ranbirgarh Panzina area in the morning following inputs about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said as the forces were conducting the search, militants fired upon them. The forces retaliated, triggering an encounter.

The police said one of the two slain militants was identified as Ishfaq Rashid, a resident of Sozeith in Srinagar.

Rashid was one of the top LeT commanders active in Kashmir Valley since 2018. He was wanted in many militancy-related cases, the police said.



SOLDIERS SMILE as they leave encounter spot in Panzina area on the Srinagar outskirts on Saturday. Pic, Abid Bhat

Al-Badr Militant Rescued: Police

Police on Saturday said a militant associated with Al-Badr outfit was "rescued" in the Kashmir valley.

They, however, neither identified the militant nor shared his residential details. "After the hectic efforts and by virtue of some good sources, police have been able to rescue one militant ● P-02

Soviet-Era Rifle Recovered In Gulmarg

In a rare catch, security forces on Saturday recovered a Dragunov sniper rifle -- a Soviet-era weapon -- from the upper reaches of ski resort of Gulmarg during a search operation, a defence spokesman said here. A search operation was launched today morning based on input regarding presence of weapon cache in the forest area of Marpathri in upper reaches of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, Defence Spokesman Col Rajesh Kalia said. He said one Dragunov sniper rifle with magazines, 194 AK-47 ● P-02

Rights Group Paints Grim Picture Of Kashmir Situation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nearly a year after Modi-led government scrapped special status of Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two Union Territories, a report prepared by a New Delhi based group says the overall security situation in Kashmir Valley has been going downhill since 2014 and there hardly seems any improvement in the situation since August 5, 2019.

Titled 'The Impact of the Lockdowns on Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir, August 2019-July 2020' the report released by 'Forum for Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir' comprising human rights defenders, former civil servants, jurists, and

military officers and academics have voiced serious concern over the wide-range of issues, including human rights violations, media gag, communication blockade, arrests and detentions under draconian laws like PSA and UAPA.

"The Government's prioritization of counter-insurgency concerns over human security has led to an across the board violation of human rights, including the violation of protections such as habeas corpus, prevention of illegal detention, strict restrictions on arrest and detention of children, right to bail and fair and speedy trial, and misuse of draconian legislation, such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities ● PAGE 02

'August 5 Move Brought China Into Kashmir Picture'

The decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and splitting the state into two Union Territories brought China into picture and made the dispute between India and Pakistan trilateral, a report released by a rights group said. The 72-page report titled 'The Impact of the Lockdowns on Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir, August 2019-July 2020' has been released by 'Forum for Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir' co-chaired by

former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur and former member of the Group of Interlocutors for Jammu and Kashmir Radha Kumar, while several eminent human rights defenders, former civil servants, jurists, former military officers and academics are its members.

The report says that China's attempts to mobilize the UN Security Council against the August changes, and its own army's May 2020 intrusions in Eastern Ladakh have ● P-02

8 More Die Of Covid-19 In Kashmir, Toll In J&K 308

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people on Saturday died of Covid-19 in Kashmir Valley, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly disease in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to 308.

Among the victims, four were Srinagar residents, two from north Kashmir's Bandipora, while one each from Baramulla and Pulwama district, officials said.

The victims from Srinagar included, a 70-year-old woman from Safa Kadal, a 60-year-old man from Peerbagh, a 75-year-old man from Rawalpore, and a 72-year-old man from Nishat. Two men in their sixties from Bandipora and a middle-aged man from Pampora in Pulwama and a 48-year-old

34 CRPF Men, 7 Soldiers Among 523 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir's coronavirus tally crossed the 17,000-mark on Saturday as 523 more people, including 34 CRPF personnel, 12 minors and 3 doctors tested positive for the deadly disease. ● P-02



A woman from Kantbagh, Baramulla also succumbed to coronavirus on Saturday.

An official from SMHS said that a 70-year-old woman from Safa Kadal who was admitted on 20 July with bilateral pneumonia died on Saturday. ● PAGE 02

Recovery Rate In J&K Touches 53.01%

The Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Saturday that the Covid-19 recovery rate in the Union territory has touched 53.01 percent while the positivity rate stood at 3 per cent as against the national average of 8.3 per cent. The testing rate in the Union Territory has also improved to 44,744 sample examinations per million population as against the national average of 12,742, they said. ● P-02

J&K Govt Begins Registering Kashmiri Migrants, Displaced Persons

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has begun online registration of Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) living outside the Union Territory, more than two months after reopening fresh registration for inclusion of bonafide people who migrated from the UT, officials said on Saturday.

Over 120 applications for the registration of Kashmiri migrants living outside the UT have been received on the first day of the registration.

"We have launched an app for

the registration of Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons on Friday. The registration application process has begun", Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K, T K Bhat told reporters here.

Bhat said that over 120 applications have been received so far. "Of these, over 40 applications have been received online today", he said.

Any Kashmiri Pandit and displaced person, who may have left Kashmir in 1944 before Independence and has any proof of owning or possessing immovable property in any part of Jammu and Kashmir on or after 1944, is entitled ● PAGE 02

■ WE HAVE LAUNCHED AN APP FOR the registration of Kashmir migrants and displaced persons on Friday. The registration application process has begun", Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K, T K Bhat told reporters here.

Beware Of Fraudsters Who Can Easily Make You Victim While Sipping Coffee

Khalid Mustafa

A time when every one of us is grappling with pervasive pandemic, people are suffering from a growing worry inside their homes by the name of online fraud.

Working from home and increasing online shopping presently have made people more prone to electronic theft.

Online fraudsters usually strike when any of us place an order for necessary items and gadgets by using the modernized technology benefits like online shopping, classified advertisements on social media platforms like Facebook, OLX, Quirk, etc.

But you never know that someone, somewhere—sitting in a room—having a cup of coffee might

be a sneaking fraudster.

He may be eyeing to steal your money, and make you suffer from various other means of cybercrime.

The online felony has increased with the advancement of widespread use of the internet. Cybercrime has today become a real threat to society.

To tackle it, Information Technology Act, 2000 was introduced to recognize, mitigate and prevent these threats.

But as of now, there's no specific definition of cybercrime.

It can be loosely described as any illegal or criminal activity done at behest of computers as the primary means of operation.

The very modus operandi makes it a white-collar crime.

Attack on e-Wallet

From some time now, the gov-



ernment is getting hundreds of complaints regarding cybercrimes—especially e-stealing by means of fraudulent online advertisements.

To lure customers, these online fraudsters sell products on lowest rates to grab money.

In real sense, such products or sellers don't exist. They're criminals operating behind a deceptive screen performing cybercrimes.

But customers do get attracted to the lowest price-tags, and become ready to pay online for the products.

In this process, they only lose their hard-earned money.

In many cases, the sellers provide you the information in such a way that you completely trust them and move ahead with the e-shopping.

The sellers sometimes ask for advance payments, bank transfers, and QR codes.

They lure gullible customers telling them that s/he is presently posted / transferred on duty—mostly faking as defense person—and needs payment in advance.

They cook this story, to make you believe that they can't be available physically, and thus forcing you for online transaction.

Online Hunting Grounds

Facebook, Olx and Quirk have today emerged as the favourite hunting grounds for these fraudsters. After they've weaponised ● PAGE 02