



Maximum : 32°C
Minimum : 19°C
Humidity : 55%

SUNSET
Today 07:34 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:40 AM



News Digest

PakBreached Truce Along LoC: Army

Srinagar: Pakistani troops violated ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir by resorting to unprovoked firing towards Indian positions on Tuesday, an Army official said. There have been no reports of any casualties so far. "Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation (CFV) along the LoC in Macchil and Gugaldara sectors in Kupwara in the afternoon hours by firing mortars and other weapons," the official said. A befitting response was given to the Pakistani aggression, he said.

Tipper Crushes Biker In Baramulla

Srinagar: A motorcyclist was knocked to death by a speedy tipper in Palhallan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 30-year-old Muhammad Yousf Najar of Bagh-e-Islam locality of main town Baramulla was killed after his bike (JK05E-2435) was hit by a tipper bearing registration number JK01R-6355 at Palhallan area of Pattan area. Meanwhile, police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and started further investigations in this regard. Police have also seized the tipper after the accident.(KNO)

Teen's Body Fished Out From Jhelum

Srinagar: Body of a teenager on Tuesday was retrieved from Jhelum in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a day after the boy drowned in the river. The body of Hanan Ahmad Dar was retrieved by a rescue team of police, army, SDRF and locals from Delina Ghat near Eidgah around 1:30 pm Tuesday, a police official said. The body, he said was handed over to the family for last rites after completion of legal formalities. On Monday, Hanan slipped into river Jhelum when he was playing with other friends on the banks of the river. A rescue operation was instantly launched to rescue ● P-02

Non-Local Burglar Held In Sopore

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a burglar and recovered stolen property from his possession. According to a police spokesperson, a man identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Shah filed a complaint with police saying that his workshop in Noorbagh area of Sopore has been damaged and various items including tyres, batteries and other equipment have been stolen by some unknown burglars. The police, he said filed a case FIR No. 201/2020 U/S 457, 380 at Police Station Sopore and launched a manhunt to nab the culprits. The police spokesperson said that various places were raided ● P-02

500 People Fined For Violating SoPs

Bhaderwah/Jammu- At least 500 people were fined and two government fair price shops sealed in Doda for violating Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) put in place to check the spread of the novel coronavirus, officials said Tuesday. They said the action was taken after District Magistrate SagarDattarayDoifode visited various areas and markets in the additional district Bhaderwah to take stock of the situation. During the visit, he ordered on-the-spot fine against 500 people ● P-02



Ko File Pic And Bhait

Doctor, 13 Others Die Of Covid-19, Toll 335

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fourteen people, including a doctor on Tuesday died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly disease to 335 in the Union Territory.

While Srinagar reported five deaths, Kupwara three including a leprosy patient who was declared covid-19 positive four days after the death, two deaths were reported from Baramulla while one fatality each was reported from Kulgam, Budgam, Bandipora and Ramban—the first death due to the virus in moun-

tainous district so far.

Among the victims is a doctor, who was posted in the remote Gurez Valley of Bandipora district.

The victims from Srinagar included a 60-year-old woman from Nowhatta, a 62-year-old man from Batamallo, a woman from Rainawari whose sample returned positive after death, an 85 year-old-man from Barzulla, a 79-year-old man from Habba Kadal, a 72-year-old patient from Eidgah and a 64-year-old resident from Rangreth, who was declared brought dead at Chest Diseases Hospital after he was

HE WAS ADMITTED IN ISOLATION ward of GMC Hospital Jammu on July 21," a senior doctor at GMC Jammu said, adding, "He was a known case of Potts Spine (Spinal tuberculosis) and was on ATT for the last 10 months.

100 Security Men Among 489 New Cases

Over a hundred security personnel and 79 travellers were among 489 people who tested Covid-19 positive on Tuesday in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the number of infected people across the Union Territory to 18879. According to officials 88 CRPF ● P-02

NHM Doctor On COVID Duty Catches Virus, Dies

National Health Mission (NHM) doctor from Sumbal area of Bandipora district on Tuesday died of COVID-19 at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital. Working as Medical Officer under NHM, the 45-year-old doctor was fighting pandemic in the remote Gurez ● P-02

Ruhullah Resigns As NC Spokesperson

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Senior National Conference leader Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday tendered his resignation as the chief spokesperson of the party following apparent differences with the leadership over its course of action in the wake of abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"I have sent across my resignation from the post of Chief Spokesperson of @JKNC. From here on none of my statements should be considered as such," Ruhullah said on his verified Twitter handle.

The trigger for the resigna-

Cong Demands Soz's Release

The Jammu and Kashmir Unit of Congress party on Tuesday demanded end to the house detention of senior leader and former Union Minister Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz without any 'further delay'. In a statement issued here, JKPC, Vice President ● P-02

tion of the influential Shia leaders seems to be the views of party vice president Omar Abdullah that he would not contest any Assembly election as long as Jammu and

Covid-19 'One Big Wave', Not Seasonal: WHO

GENEVA: A World Health Organisation official on Tuesday described the COVID-19 pandemic as "one big wave" and warned against complacency in the northern hemisphere summer since the infection does not share influenza's tendency to follow seasons.

WHO officials have been at pains to avoid describing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases like those in Hong Kong as "waves" as this suggests the virus is behaving in ways beyond human control, when in fact concerted action can slow its spread.

Margaret Harris repeated that message in a virtual briefing in Geneva. "We are in the first wave. It's going to be one big wave. It's going to go up and down a bit. The best thing is to flatten it and turn it into just something lapping at your feet," she said.

Pointing to high case numbers at the height of the U.S. summer, she urged vigilance in applying measures and warned against mass gatherings.

"People are still thinking about seasons. What we all need to get our heads around is this is a new virus and...this one is behaving differently," she said.

"Summer is a problem. This virus likes all weather."

However, she expressed concern about COVID-19 cases ● P-02

ECI Pulls Up LG Murmu Over J&K Poll Remarks

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Election Commission on Tuesday took "exception" to the reported remarks of Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor G C Murmu on timing of polls in the union territory, and said in the constitutional scheme of things, only the EC is authorised to decide on the poll schedule.

Taking note of a media report which quoted Murmu on the delimitation exercise in J&K and holding of polls, the EC in a statement said it "takes exception to such statements and would like to state that in the Constitutional scheme of things, the timings etc. of elections is the sole remit of Election Commission of India."

The Commission also referred to similar statements of the LG reported by various media outlets in November last year and June this year.

"It would be proper for authorities other than the Election Commission to refrain from making such statements which virtually tantamount to interfering with the Constitutional mandate of the Commission," the statement said.

The poll panel said before deciding the timing, it takes into consideration all the relevant factors, including topography, weather,

sensitivities arising out of regional and local festivities in the areas where the election is to take place.

"For example, in the current times, COVID-19 has introduced a new dynamic, which has to be, and shall be taken into consideration at the due time. In the instant case, the outcome of delimitation is also germane to the decision," the statement said.

Availability of central forces and railway coaches for their trans-

portation are important factors, it pointed out.

"All this is done after meticulous homework by the senior officials of the Commission and a detailed assessment in due consultation with concerned authorities," it said.

The Commission itself schedules a visit to the concerned state whenever required and holds extensive consultations with all the stakeholders, the statement noted. ● PAGE 02

Will Verify J&K LG, Madhav's Statements On 4G, Govt Tells SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it will verify reported statements made by the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and BJP leader Ram Madhav that 4G Internet service can be restored in the Union Territory, and sought time to file a reply to the rejoinder affidavit filed by an NGO.

A bench of justices N V Ramana, R Subhash Reddy and B R Gavai adjourned the hearing for August 7, on a contempt plea filed by an NGO Foundation for

Media Professionals.

High speed Internet service in J-K has been suspended since August last year when the Centre had announced revocation of its special status and bifurcation of the state into two UTs — Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The apex court was hearing a plea of the NGO seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the Union Home Secretary and Chief Secretary of J-K for their alleged "wilful disobedience" in complying with the court's May 11 order.

At the outset, solicitor ● P-02

Hospital Ransacked, Doctors Beaten After Medical 'Negligence'

ANANTNAG: Attendants of a patient, who died due to alleged medical negligence, Tuesday morning ransacked Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) in Anantnag.

Rozzi Jan, 26, a resident of Beighbagh delivered a baby at MCCH Anantnag on Monday afternoon. She was normal till Tuesday early morning when she complained of uneasiness. "We told the doctors but no one came to see her. We were told she is alright. She eventually passed away in the morning," a family member was quoted as saying. "She could have been saved had the doctors attended on her," the family member said.

The attendants then lost their cool and ransacked the hospital infrastructure including the ambulance.



Medical Superintendent MCCH Anantnag Dr M Andrabi denied the lady died due to medical negligence. "She went unwell on Tuesday morning and we wanted her to shift to Srinagar for ventilator support. The attendants did not allow that and instead vandalised the hospital and beat up doctors and other staff members. During this time, she passed away," Dr Andrabi said. He said one of the staff ● PAGE 02

GOI Accelerating Demographic Changes In Kashmir: Hurriyat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday accused New Delhi of bringing new rules and amendments to accelerate the process of "demographic change" in Jammu and Kashmir and to "usurp land and livelihood" of the people.

In a statement issued here, a Hurriyat Conference spokesperson said that post-August 2019, when Modi-led government scrapped Article-370 and Article 35A, besides split the state into two Union Territories, New Delhi was changing and amending rules one after another to bring about and accelerate the process of demographic changes in J&K



"After the arbitrary and illicit domicile law was brought in, every other day new diktats are being issued to usurp the land and livelihood of the people and simultaneously change the demographic character of the state," the Hurriyat spokesperson said.

He said few days ago, government of India brought in an amendment to the Control of Building Operations Act. ● PAGE 02

Technology Infuses Ancient Hajj Rites Amid Global Pandemic

Agencies

DUBAI: The vast white marble floors surrounding Islam's holiest site, the Holy Kaaba in Makkah, would normally be packed with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world the day before the Haj.

On Tuesday, however, only a few officials and workers putting last minute preparations in place were seen at the Grand Mosque housing the Kaaba.

In place of the 2.5 million pilgrims who preformed the Haj last year, only a very limited number of faithful anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 are being allowed to take part in what is largely a symbolic pilgrimage amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The select few approved for this year's Haj have been tested for the virus and are self-isolating in hotel



Picture courtesy AP

rooms in Makkah, where they will experience an ancient pilgrimage, albeit tailored this year for a modern-day global pandemic.

Amr Al-Maddah, the chief planning officer at the Ministry of Haj, is helping

incorporate the latest technology into the pilgrimage such as thermal scanners and electronic ID cards.

"Right now, technology is our black horse to developing the whole Haj journey," ● PAGE 02

Militant Trying To Sneak Into J&K Killed

JAMMU: An unidentified militant on Tuesday was killed while trying to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir through Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, officials said Tuesday.

According to official sources, the security forces noticed the movement of a group of five militants on the other side of the fence in Samhani Baggara area in Naushera sector of the district. The movement of militants, they said was well intercepted before they could have managed to reach LoC and were engaged.

Amid engagement of militants, official sources said an explosion took place in the area after one of the infiltrators stepped over a land mine or an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and died on the spot.

"The body of the killed militant was taken along by his four ● P-02

Auqib Javed

WHEN Shahida Parveen woke up to the news that her "brightest" brother will be the first Indian pilot to fly Rafale, she texted him the Poet of East's celebrated couplet: "Nahin Tera Nasheman Qasr-e-Sultani Ke Gunbad Par / Tu Shaheen Hai, Basera Kar Paharon Ki Chatanon Mein (Thy abode is not on the dome of a royal palace / You are an eagle and should live on the rocks of mountains)."

The couplet, the proud sibling said, complimented the 'flying' character of her brother.

On Tuesday, Shahida's sibling, Air Commodore Hilal Ahmad Rather was seen alongside the Indian Ambassador to France, and overseeing the flight of the First Rafale jets from France to India.

The Kashmiri airman's name made rounds four years after an

'First Rafale Man Of India': 'Hilal Was The Brightest Among 5 Siblings'

agreement between India and France cleared the decks for India's 36 Rafale fighter aircraft.

The much-talked about flying machines took off from France's Metz-Nancy-Meuse airport on July 27, and will land in India on July 29 after a stopover in an airbase in UAE.

These jets will significantly boost the combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

As India's Air attaché to France, Hilal reportedly played a significant role in ensuring the timely delivery of the jets to India.

Once done with the deal, the IAF officer was seen with Jawed Ashraf, India's ambassador to France. The captured moment of the two Indian officers became momentous for India's Rafale deal. Hailing from Bakshiabad area of



Hilal with India's Ambassador to France Jawed Ashraf seen in the cockpit of Rafale before it left for India.

Anantnag district, Hilal was born to Mohammad Abdullah Rather, a JAKU officer who fought the Chinese in the 1962 war. Later he would be bestowed with "Sena Medal" for his bravery.

But before being awarded, Hilal's father was reported missing in the Sino-India war of Sixties.

"We received his uniform and were told that he died but then miracle happened," Shahida told Kashmir Observer. "He came back after three months but not before hoisting India's flag in the hills of East Ladakh sector."

Hilal's father later joined the J&K Police and eventually retired as a deputy superintendent of police, before breathing his last in 2013.

"It was the dream of our father to see Hill touching the skies," Shahida

said. "Not only he touched skies, but also made all of us so proud through his achievements."

Among the five siblings, Shahida said, Hilal was the brightest student.

"Our elder sister was lecturer; I, as a second sibling, retired as a law officer; the third one is also lecturer; another brother is a Chemistry lecturer and our youngest and brightest sibling Hilal, is a pilot."

Hilal has two children — one has completed Bachelors in Economics and Psychology, other one is doing Bachelors in Business studies in Europe. His wife, Samina has done Masters in Science.

Hilal did his early schooling in Anantnag and joined the Sainik School in Jammu's Nagrota town for further studies, where he became the School Captain. Later he joined the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA).

"He then chose Air Force and passed out as the best all ● PAGE 02