



Maximum : 33°C SUNSET
 Today 07:20 PM
 Minnum : 20°C SUNRISE
 Humidity : 53% Tomorrow 05:51 AM

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News Digest

CRPF Inspector Shoots Self

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer on Wednesday was critically wounded after he allegedly shot himself with his service rifle in this capital city. M.Damodar from CRPF 141 battalion shot himself with his service weapon at his camp here on Wednesday, reports said. He was moved to the SMHS hospital where his condition was said to be stable. "He shot himself with his service rifle," Srinagar based CRPF PRO Pankaj Singh said. An investigation has been started by the CRPF in the incident.

3 Arrested For 'Funding' Militancy

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a militant funding module of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) by arresting three people in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Irshad Ahmad Sheikh, Mohammad Junaid Wani and Raj Mohammad Khan were arrested by Bandipora police on the basis of a credible input, a police spokesperson said. The trio, he said were running a militant funding module of LeT and were in touch with their handlers in POK. "Incriminating materials including cash Rs 4 lakhs have been recovered from their possession and Rs1 lakh in bank" ● P-02

53 New COVID-19 Cases In Ladakh

Leh: A total of 53 fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Ladakh, taking the Union Territory's tally to 1,770, officials said on Wednesday. Ladakh accounted for nine coronavirus-related deaths, while 1,255 patients have recovered from the disease since its outbreak in March. The officials said while 28 fresh cases of the infection were detected in Kargil, 25 were reported in Leh district. Among the 1,770 cases recorded in Ladakh so far, 931 were reported in Kargil and 839 in Leh, they said, adding that 742 patients (82 per cent) recovered ● P-02

Police Rescue Abducted Girl

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday foiled an attempt of a youth to abduct a girl in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to the reports, a police team noticed a speedy vehicle passing through Chinad area of the district in which a girl was seen crying. The police chased the vehicle and rescued the girl, who was allegedly being abducted by a youth identified as Irshad Ahmad Hajam of Putkha. Quoting an unnamed police officer, news agency KNS reported that the driver fled from the area after the cops chased him. ● P-02

Police Cracks Theft Cases, 2 Held

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have solved two separate theft cases by arresting two burglars in Baramulla district and recovering stolen property from their possession. A police spokesperson said that a woman Nusrat Manzoor of Khanpora, Baramulla reported in police post Delina that during intervening night of 26/27.07.2020 some unknown burglars broke open the institute of information technology near higher secondary ground Delina and took away 04 laptops, 02 computers, UPS 02 no's, 04 chargers ● P-02

Hizb Commander, Soldier Killed In Pulwama Encounter

Militant Ambush Leaves Army Man Injured In Sopore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen and an army man were killed while a soldier was injured on Wednesday in two separate gunfights in Pulwama and Baramulla districts of the Valley.

State forces launched a search operation in an orchard in Kamrazipora village of Pulwama in the early hours of the day on receiving information about the presence of militants there, they said.

The officials said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire on the personnel, injuring two soldiers.

The injured were rushed to army's 92 Base hospital in Srinagar, where one of them succumbed to his injuries, they said.

In the gunfight, one militant was also killed, they added. Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh identified the militant as Hizb Commander Azaad Lelhari of Pulwama

"Azaad Lelhari was involved in the killing of police head constable Anoop Singh on 22 May 2020 at Prichu Pulwama where he fired at a Naka party," Singh said. He said six FIRs ● PAGE 02



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Guns Roar Along LoC In Rajouri

India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu province. The Pakistani army violated ceasefire by using heavy fire and mortar shells to target forward areas along the LoC in Rajouri district, prompting a befitting response from the security forces, officials said. ● P-02

Lashkar Militant Held In Hajin: Police

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant from Hajin area of Bandipora district. ● P-02

Searches Conducted In City Centre

Government forces on Wednesday carried out a search operation in Abi Guzar area of the City Centre. A posse of Special ● P-02

AI Calls Shopian Killings 'Extra Judicial Murders'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Prominent human rights body Amnesty International on Wednesday demanded an independent and transparent probe into the alleged fake encounter of three Rajouri youth by government forces in south Kashmir's Shopian district last month.

"Amnesty International India calls for the extrajudicial execution to be investigated and prosecuted by independent civilian authorities. Civilian investigations and trials offer a degree of transparency and independence that is missing from the military justice system," Executive

Director Avinash Kumar said in a statement issued to media on Wednesday.

The Amnesty statement further said that the UN Human Rights Committee, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which India is a state party has stated that in cases of human rights violations by security forces, investigations should be carried out by civilian authorities in order to ensure independence.

"This has also been affirmed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. The Supreme Court ● PAGE 02

MCI Declares Medical Degrees Obtained From PaK Invalid

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In a significant move the Medical Council of India (MCI) has declared the medical degrees obtained from Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) will not be registered and persons possessing such certificates will not be allowed to practice modern medicine in India.

In a notice, R.K. Vats, Secretary General of MCI, said: "This is to inform all concerned that the entire territories of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India. Pakistan is an illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the territory".

The notice further states that "accordingly, any medical institu-



tion in Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (POJKL) requires permission/recognition under IMC Act, 1956. Such permission has not been granted to any medical college in POJKL".

"Therefore, any qualification obtained from medical colleges located in these 'illegally occupied areas of India' shall not entitle a person for grant of registration ● PAGE 02

Army Considers Resettling Kashmiri Youth Who Give Up Arms

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India is considering offering young Kashmiri militants an escape from a life of violence by temporarily resettling them in more peaceful parts of the country, according to the top military commander in the Kashmir Valley.

Lieutenant General BS Raju revealed the plan for a new scheme to offer a way out of militancy

during a telephone interview from his headquarters in Srinagar, Kashmir's main city.

He told Reuters that recommendations had been submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and that the plan, while not finalised, was in an advanced stage.

"These are young boys who need to be taken care of for a period of time," Raju said, adding

that could involve temporarily settling them outside of Muslim-majority Kashmir.

Past efforts to persuade fighters to put down their guns have had mixed success. But Raju said that the military had recommended that the scheme take a longer-term approach to rehabilitate ex-militants.

"The bottom-line is that it will have a structure that will ● PAGE 02

■ THESE ARE YOUNG BOYS WHO NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE of for a period of time," Raju said, adding that could involve temporarily settling them outside of Muslim-majority Kashmir.

Fate Of 'Abducted' Soldier Unknown

SRINAGAR: Ten days after he was abducted by suspected militants in south Kashmir's Shopian district, the fate of a Territorial Army soldier remains unknown.

A resident of Shopian's Reshipora village, Rifleman Shakir of 162 Battalion (TA) was abducted by suspected militants on August 2 and his vehicle was found abandoned and burnt in south Kashmir's Kulgam. Three days later, his clothes were found in Landoora area of Shopian.

"Every morning my relatives and locals search several kilometers inch by inch in order to find any clue about my son, but to no avail," Shakir's father Manzoor Ahmad said Wednesday.

Since August 2, Ahmad says he and his family have ● P-02

We Need To Introspect What J&K Has Got In The Past 70 Years: LG

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that there was a need to introspect what Jammu and Kashmir had got in the past seven decades.

Addressing an official function here at SKICC, Sinha said that the month of August has a great significance in the history of India.

"We must introspect what J&K has got in the past 70 years. A new beginning of change has been witnessed by J&K and the UT Government is trying to push the agenda of development and progress forward. J&K's development and the

welfare of its people is the top most priority of the Central and the UT Government," Sinha said.

He said that the last two years have seen a massive developmental push with unprecedented acceleration of developmental works and projects in J&K and the impact has been visible on the ground.

"The focus of the J&K Government in the last 2 years has been to give people a voice by strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering institutions of local self-government through participatory governance," he said.

"Let us all come together to fulfil Gandhiji's dream of ● PAGE 02

No Loan, Oil Supply For Pakistan: Saudi

Agencies

LONDON: With Saudi Arabia ending loan and oil supply to Pakistan, the decade-long friendship between the two countries has finally ended, reported Middle East Monitor.

Pakistan was also made to pay back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia, which was part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018, which included a total of \$3 billion in loans and an oil credit facility amounting to \$3.2 billion.

The deals were then signed when Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman made a visit to Pakistan in February last year, the Middle East Monitor reported.

This development came after Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had given a blunt warning to Saudi Arabia-led Organisation of Islamic

Pak Seeks US Help On Kashmir, Again

Pakistan on Tuesday urged United States to intervene and diffuse tensions with India over the lingering Kashmir issue. In a virtual conference with Ambassador David Hale, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs at the US State Department, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood said that it was imperative to take steps to prevent escalation of tensions ● P-02

Cooperation (OIC) for not taking a stance against India over the Kashmir issue.

Qureshi was quoted as saying by the ARY channel, "If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan ● PAGE 02

Interview | Shah Faesal: 'I Want To Move On And Live A Productive Life'

Auqib Javeed

AS his recent resignation continues to draw online fun and fury, former bureaucrat in his defense says that he's just accepting his weaknesses and moving on.

But Shah Faesal's decision has already made him "a disillusioned monk who once sold his Ferrari" for the "cause best known to him" for his detractors.

However, the doctor-turned-bureaucrat-turned-politician-turned... terms the rage over his reason as gratuitous.

In a chat with Kashmir Observer, Shah Faesal talks about his departure from politics, his frizzled defiance, and his desire for a 'productive life'.

Do you call yourself now – a separatist or a stooge?

One side has been calling me separatist and the other side stooge. That is a proof I am neither of the two.

Detractors accuse you of being an inconsistent man with no clarity of purpose.

Detractors are welcome to replace me and jump into my shoes. If I failed in doing something they are welcome to do it.

From a doctor to bureaucrat to politician and now what? Why this turnaround?

Life is a journey. I experimented with life and got many successes and many failures. There is no turnaround. I'm just accepting my weaknesses and moving on.

There're reports in New Delhi



media that you will be part of an advisory council? I have absolutely no idea.

We saw stalwart politicians biting the dust on August 5. Do you think you can still make a difference?

There is nothing like biting the dust. Mainstream politics will always remain important in a democracy. Same people will rule again tomorrow. Wait and watch.

Can we call you a failed politician now?

You can call me anything. It doesn't hurt you. I'm a better human being now. Even if I'm a failed politician.

Social media is abuzz with people wondering whether you will return their money and assets they donated you when you launched the party?

We got six lac one hundred rupees. Those who are used to abusing me will go to any extent in spreading lies. I have not spent a penny on myself and the facts are in public domain. ● PAGE 02