

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, Mohmad 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 PcK. "Incriminating materials including cash Rs 4 lakhs have been recovered from their possession and Rs1lakh 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

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 mili-

tant 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**



Guns Roar Along LoC In Rajouri

ndia 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 Dolice on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e- Taiba

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militant from Hajin area of Bandipora district. • P-02

Russia Rejects Safety Concerns Over Covid-19 Vaccine

MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday the first batch of its Covid-19 vaccine would be ready for some medics within two weeks and rejected as "groundless" safety concerns aired by some experts over Moscow's rapid approval of the drug.

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia had become the first country to grant regulatory approval to a COV-ID-19 vaccine, after less than two months of human testing.

The vaccine has not yet completed its final trials. Only about 10% of clinical trials are successful and some scientists fear Moscow may be putting national prestige before safety.

"It seems our foreign colleagues are sensing the specific competitive advantages of the Russian drug and are trying to express opinions that in our opinion are completely groundless," Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said on Wednesday. He said the vaccine developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute

would be administered to people, including doctors, on a voluntary basis, and would be ready soon. "The first packages of the

medical vaccine against the coronavirus infection will be received within the next two weeks, primarily for doctors," he said. Alexander Gintsburg, director of the Gamaleya Institute, said clinical trials would be published once they have been • P-02

8 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll Reaches 500

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus fatalities crossed 500-mark in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as eight more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union territory during the last 24 hours. Srinagar, this capital city

reported three new Covid-19 deaths, while Kupwara two and one each from Baramulla, Pulwama and Ganderbal districts, official sources said. The victims from Srinagar included a 70-year-old man from Lal Bazar who was admitted

to SKIMS Soura on July 24. The other two fatalities include a 60-year-old man from

Nawab Bazar, admitted with Pneumonia to the hospital on August 4, and a 68-yearold-man from Rainawari who was admitted to SMHS hospital on August 6, sources said. Regarding the latter, a se-

sources said the 80-year-old woman from Waspora Murran came positive for covid-19 today. She had underlying renal failure and died on way to district hospital Pulwama, the

Fate Of 'Abducted'

SRINAGAR: Ten days after he was

abducted by suspected militants in

south Kashmir's Shopian district,

the fate of a Territorial Army sol-

A resident of Shopian's Reshipora

village, Rifleman Shakir of 162 Bat-

talion (TA) was abducted by sus-

pected 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.

Soldier Unknown

dier remains unknown.

DAK Prez, Senior

482 New Cases

Police Officer Among

ammu and Kashmir re-

ported on Wednesday

482 new cases of Co-

vid-19, including President

Doctors Association (DAK)

personnel, taking the total

number of infected people

across the Union territory

to 26413. While 376 new

cases were reported from

that he was suffering

from Chronic Obstruc-

tive Pulmonary Disease

(COPD) and bilateral

Regarding Pulwama victim,

the Kashmir valley, the

remaining 106 P-02

Pneumonia

Kashmir, a senior police

officer and ten security

nior doctor at the hospital said sources added. **PAGE 02**

EGARDING PULWAMA VICTIM, sources said the 80-year-old woman from

Waspora Murran came positive for covid-19 today. She had underlying renal failure and died on way to district hospital Pulwama, the sources added.

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

tive 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 LIN Special Rapporteur on th

Army Considers Resettling Kashmiri Youth Who Give Up Arms

nagar, Kashmir's main city.

an advanced stage.

Agencies

Searches Conducted

overnment forces on

Guzar area of the City Centre.A

Wednesday carried out

a search operation in Abi

In City Centre

posse of Special • P-02

NEW DELHI: India is considering offering young Kashmiri militants an escape from a life of violence mendations had been submitby temporarily resettling them in more peaceful parts of the country, according to the top military commander in the Kashmir Valley. Lieutenant General BS Raiu re-

THESE ARE YOUNG BOYS WHO NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE of for a period of time," Raju said, adding that could involve temporarily settling

during a telephone interview that could involve temporarily from his headquarters in Srisettling them outside of Muslimmajority Kashmir. He told Reuters that recom-

Past efforts to persuade fighters to put down their guns have ted to Prime Minister Narendra had mixed success. But Raju said Modi's government and that the that the military had recomplan, while not finalised, was in mended that the scheme take a longer-term approach to reha-

"These are young boys who bilitate ex-militants. vealed the plan for a new scheme need to be taken care of for a pe-to offer a way out of militancy riod of time," Raju said, adding have a structure that will **PAGE 02**

"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.

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

independence that is missing from Independence of Judges and Lawthe military justice system," Execu- yers. The Supreme Court **PAGE 02**

them outside of Muslim-majority Kashmir.

Since August 2, Ahmad says he and his family have • P-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 requires permission/recognition inform all concerned that the entire territories of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are an medical college in POJKL". integral part of India. Pakistan is in

illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the territory".

"accordingly, any medical institu-



tion in Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (POJKL) under IMC Act, 1956. Such permission has not been granted to any "Therefore, any qualification ob-

tained from medical colleges located in these "illegally occupied areas The notice further states that of India" shall not entitle a person for grant of registration **PAGE 02**

No Respite From Heat Wave For Now: Weatherman

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley will continue to be in the grip of a heat wave and there will be no respite from the scorching heat for the next one week, a senior weather department official said Wednesday.

Director MeT, Sonam Lotus said Wednesday that there is no prediction of any major rainfall activity in the next one week.

He said that the weather conditions across Kashmir would remain hot and humid, adding that there is possibility of light rainfall in some areas also. "But, there is no • 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 Govern- tal push with unprecedented acment is trying to push the agenda celeration of developmental works of development and progress for- and projects in J&K and the impact ward. J&K's development and the has been visible on the ground.

LG Assures Better Security To Panchayat Reps

ewly-appointed Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday promised better security arrangement for grassroots level elected leaders but asked them to take precautionary measures as well.

"Many people have spoken about security issues. We have lost several colleagues recently...My sympathies and the administration stand with their families. "Whatever possible security arrangements have • P-02

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

have seen a massive developmen-

"The focus of the J&K Government in the last 2 years has been to give people a voice by strengthen-He said that the last two years ing grassroots democracy and empowering institutions of local selfgovernment 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 Muhammed 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 the ARY channel, "If you cannot con-Qureshi had given a blunt warning to vene it, then I'll be compelled to ask

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 Saudi Arabia-led Organisation of Islamic Prime Minister Imran Khan » PAGE 02

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

Auqib Javeed

S his recent resignation continues to draw online reaucrat in his defense of the two. 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-turnedturned... terms the rage over his

reason as gratuitous. In a chat with Kashmir Observer, ance, 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 fun and fury, former bu- stooge. That is a proof I am neither

> 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 bureaucrat-turned-politician- politician and now what? Why this turnaround?

Life is a journey. I experimented with life and got many successes Shah Faesal talks about his depar- and many failures. There is no ture from politics, his frizzled defi- turnaround. I'm just accepting my weaknesses and moving on.



We saw stalwart politicians biting media that you will be part of an the dust on August 5. Do you think advisory council? I have absolutely no idea. 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**



There're reports in New Delhi