

mrow 05:57 AM

Maximum: 27°c Minmum :17°c Humidity:77%

01 Muharram-ul-Haraaml | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 181 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3



www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

News Digest

Minor's Death Sparks Protest In Kangan

Srinagar: A minor girl's death in a road accident on Thursday set off protests in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Eight-year-old Adiya Bano was critically injured after a Srinagar bound truck (JK01A-2124) hit her near Ganiwan area of Kangan on Thursday afternoon, reports said. The injured girl was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her brought dead on arrival. The girl's death, reports said set off protests in Ganiwan. The locals blocked Srinagar-Leh road demanding arrest and punishment of the accused driver. A local news agency KNT reported that the truck driver fled from the spot after mowing down the minor girl. • P-02

10 Absent Employees **Suspended In Ananthag**

Srinagar: The district authorities in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Thursday placed ten employees under suspension for remaining unauthorized absent from duties. District Development Commissioner Anantnag Kuldeep Krishan Sidha Thursday visited Larkipora to take stock of the ongoing construction work of 4x33mtr span Bridge being constructed by R&B Division Qazigung on Brengi nalla at Larkipora at an estimated cost of Rs. 1250 lac with an expenditure of Rs. 280 lac till date. During the surprise visit, the DDC suspended one doctor of PHC Larkiopor and three officials of Agriculture extension office of Larkipora for remaining absent from duty unauthorizedly. Similarly on Wednesday, the DC visited ● P-02

Grenade Found In Govt Office

Srinagar- A hand grenade was found lying in a tehsil office in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, police said. Police detected the grenade in the afternoon, a police official said. A bomb disposal squad later defused the grenade. There was no loss of life or property in the incident, the official said

Cop Dies Of Electric Shock In Pattan

Srinagar: A Policeman, who was on leave, died due to electrocution in north Kashmir's Pattan on Thursday. 29-year-old policeman, who was posted at IRP Battalion ParihasporaPattan was electrocuted to death while repairing an electric wire at his home at Wanigam Pattan. An official confirmed the incident to news agency KNO and identified the deceased as Hilal Ahmad Bhat, son of Wali Mohammad Bhat. The officer said the cop was on leave and died at his home. He said a case has been registered and further investigation has been initiated in this regard

Eight Injured In Poonch Accident, 2 Critical

Poonch- At least eight persons were injured, two of them critically, when a sumo vehicle they were traveling in met with an accident in Poonch district on Thursday. Official sources said that a Sumo (JK02AB-5463) on way from Bhera to Mendhar met with an accident at MohallaBarwala in which eight persons were injured, reported news agency GNS. Seven of them have been identified as Muzamal Ahmed, RazaMahid, Mohammad Avoub, Wazir Mohammad, Mazar Havat, Mohammad Sageer and Maiid Ali, all residents of Behra. Soon after the accident, SHO Mendhar ManzoorKohli along with a police team • P-02

Kashmir Fallout: Saudi's Snub **Pak Efforts To Mend Relations**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's effort to repair relations with Saudi Arabia has been snubbed by Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman. The de facto ruler of the kingdom refused to meet with Islamabad's Army Chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, who was in the Kingdom to mend ties between the two countries.

Bajwa, who started his visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday, returned home after being declined a meeting with bin Salman, known popularly as MBS. Instead, Bajwa had to settle for a meeting with the 34-year old's younger brother, Deputy Defence Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Salman, and Maj Gen Fayyad Al Ruwaili, the kingdom's chief of general staff, Middle East Monitor reported on Thursday.

It reported that Bajwa conveyed regret over comments made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi which angered the Saudis. Qureshi in an unusually sharp warning asked Saudi Arabia-led Organisation of Islamic Coop- of the Council of Foreign Min- Qureshi said that if OIC fa eration (OIC) early this month isters is our expectation. If you summon the CFM >> PAGE 02



PAK PREMIER Imran Khan with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, File photo

Amid Tensions With Saudi, Pak

Moves Closer To China t was the statement of Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mah-

mood Qureshi against the Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), pertaining to the Kashmir dispute, which attracted irked response from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia P-02

of Foreign Ministers on Kashmir.

said: "I am once again respectfully telling OIC that a meeting oppressed Kashmiris.

to stop dilly-dallying on the con- cannot convene it, then I'll be vening of a meeting of its Council compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of Appearing in a talk show on the Islamic countries that are ARY News, the foreign minister ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the

Qureshi said that if OIC fails to

A AM ONCE AGAIN RESPECTFULLY TELLING OIC THAT A meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers is our expectation. If you cannot convene

it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris."

Highway Closed Again, 100's of **Vehicles Stranded**

BANIHAL: Multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains blocked Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district on Thursday, leaving over 200 vehicles stranded, officials said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was blocked by landslides at Trishul Morh, Battery Cheshma and Pantiyal areas, officials said.

As a result, over 200 vehicles are stranded at different points of the highway, they said.

Men and machinery have been deployed to clear the area.

The highway was closed for two days last week due to a massive landslide triggered by heavy rains in Ramban district.

Hundreds Protest In Pattan Against Blasphemy Video

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of people for the fourth consecutive day Thursday staged demonstrations in parts of the Valley against the blasphemous remarks made by the members of a rightwing group against the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh).

Hundreds of people converged in Pattan and staged a strong demonstration denouncing the intolerable act of blasphemy by the members of rightwing Sentinel Bharat Raksha Manch members in Jammu's Reasi on Sunday, reports said Thursday. Carrying placards, the protesters were demanding capital punishment for the culprits.

These fanatics from Bharat Raksha Manch including • P-02

CRPF Man Among 9 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K Toll 590

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Nine more people, including a paramilitary CRPF personal succumbed to coronavirus infection in Kashmir Valley on Thursday, raising the number of people dead due to Covid-19 in the Union Territory to 590.

According to official Sources, three among the victims were residents of Srinagar, while two from Baramulla and one each from Budgam, Kupwara, Anantnag and Pulwama districts of the valley.

A 70-year-old man from So-

pore Baramulla, who was diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease and bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) died due to cardiac arrest at 12:50 a.m. at SKIMS Soura where he was admitted since August 9, the

They said an 87-yearold from Tral Pulwama, admit on August 11 as a case of bilat-

official sources said.

Longest ICU Stayed Patient, 7 Others Discharged

KIMS Bemina on Thursday discharged eight more Covid-19 patients on recovery, including a longest staying patient, who spent 47 days at the hospital. Among the discharged, six patients had severe COVID pneumonia with severe • P-02

eral CAP died at SMHS hospital, they said.

Another covid-19 positive patient— a woman from Khanda Budgam, admitted to the hospital on August 17 and diagnosed with bilateral CAP. also

> succumbed today. Also, a 50-yearold Covid-19 positive trooper from 61

battalion CRPF, Shivpora Srinagar, died few hours after being brought to the >> PAGE 02

J&K Reports 683New Cases

ammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 683 new cases of coronavirus, including 68 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by virus across the Union Territory to 30717, officials said.

Among the new cases, 114 were from the Jammu region, while 569 were from Kashmir, they said. Srinagar district reported the highest number of 165 new COVID-19 cases, followed by 113 in Bandipora district, the officials said. There are 6,914 active COVID-19 cases, while 23,225 patients have recovered so far, they said.

Indian Agencies Keep Vigil Over Seven Active

NEW DELHI: Even as the tensions on China border continue over territorial issues, Indian agencies are keeping a close eye on the activities of the People's Liberation Army's Air Force (PLAAF) spread all along the Line of Actual Control with India opposite Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in

on the Hotan, Gar Gunsa, Kashghar, Hopping, Dkonka Dzong, Linzhi and Pangat airbases of the PLAAF in the Xinjiang and Tibet region and all of them have been highly active in the recent times.' government sources told ANI.

Chinese Air Bases

the Northeast.

"We are keeping a close watch

The Chinese PLAAF • P-02

We Have Not Given Up On Gupkar Declaration: Dr Farooq

NC Holds First Party Meet Post-Article 370 Abrogation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said the party would discuss and review the political agenda with regard to Jammu and Kashmir only after all leaders including former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti have been set free. "The aim of today's me

to ensure that the four leaders were free. We will discuss and review the leaders are set free," Abdullah said. The Lok Sabha member was talking



meeting NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar and former ministers

political agenda once all political to reporters at his residence here after Mohammad Shafi Uri, Abdul Rahim Rather and Nasir Aslam Wani. Abdullah said he will also call

other party leaders for similar meetings in the coming days.

"I hope that those who came for the meeting today are free now, not just for today, after one year and 15 davs of detention. I will be meeting other leaders as well," he said.

Abdullah said he wanted all the leaders of the union territory including PDP president Mehbooba Mufti to be set free. He said he was in constant touch with her and she was very much part of the Gupkar declaration of all political parties last year.

"We have not given up. The allparty meeting (convened ▶ PAGE 02

Raj Kumar Gupta in ● P-02

26 Militant Commanders Killed In Kashmir This Year: DGP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The state forces have killed over two dozen militant commanders so far this year, which has broken the leadership structure of their outfits to a great extent, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh said on Thursday.

"A total of 26 militant commanders -- who were either number one or number two -- have been eliminated in the last seven-and-a-half months, after which their leadership structure has been broken to a great extent. This is a huge success for the security forces and has giv- youngsters from picking up guns.

Militant Slain In Handwara Gunfight Is Pakistani: Police

militant who was killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district along with a top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commander was identified as a Pakistani ultra, police on Thursday said. aid the Pakistani militant named Danish was killed in the encounter on Wednesday.

P-02

en respite to people," the DGP told reporters at a press conference in the Handwara area of north Kash-

mir's Kupwara district. Singh, however, said militancy does not end by killing militants and underlined the importance of stopping

"Our endeavour is not just to kill militants. Militancy does not end by killing militants. Our endeavour is also to stop youngsters from becoming militants and for that, we have to have clean operations and deal with law and order in a proper way," he said.

The top cop of the **→PAGE 02**

More Than Covid, I Lost My Father To Social Constructs

HC Junks Plea By Teachers Against Continuation Of GB Hostel Wardens

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition by a group of teachers who had challenged process linked to their repatriation to parent department after completing tenure as Wardens or Assistants Wardens in the Hostels of Gujjars and Bakerwals and the Pahari Speaking People in the J&K.

The teachers had actually challenged Central Administrative Tribunal's order, dismissing their plea

A bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Sanjay Dhar also termed it as "enigmatic" the eagerness of these teachers to continue to the posts of Wardens or Assistant War-huge funds allocated for **>> PAGE 02**

dens in these hostels and asked Tribal Affairs Department to be watchful in ensuring funds allotted for the benefit of the poor students reach them as is provided on paper and due to them.

"It is enigmatic why should the petitioners (teachers) be so eagerly interested in sticking to the posts of Wardens / Assistant Wardens in these hostels when they belong to the School Education Department and hold substantive positions in their parent Department, moreso when they have completed the prescribed tenure of three years," the court said. "No such ground, muchless plausible, is coming forth from the pleadings."

However, the court said, inferably, it is likely that since there are

12 Charged For Duping Bizman Worth Rs 5.60 Cr

Jammu: An Udhampur court on Thursday framed charges of cheating and fraud against 12 persons for their alleged roles in duping an industrialist of Rs 5.60 crore on the pretext of selling him a precious metal on cheap rates.

The court of Udhampur chief judicial magistrate framed charges against the accused saying that material available on the file and submission made by the prosecution, all 12 accused are prima facie guilty of committing offences of cheating and fraud. The ASJ framed charges against the accused after they pleaded not guilty and claimed trial. The formal trial of accused

starts after framing of charges. The case pertained to the alleged tricking of local industrialist

Board Exams To Be Held 'Offline'

SRINAGAR: The government on Thursday announced that this year's 10th, 11 and 12th class examinations shall be held "offline".

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of officers of JKBOSE and School Education Department chaired by Principal Secretary, School Education and Skill Development, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon to review preparedness for the upcoming examinations in Kashmir Valley and winter zone of Jammu division.

Secretary, JK BOSE, Riyaz Ahmed, Director School Education, Kashmir, Mohammad Younis and other concerned officers were present in the • P-02

Hirra Sultan

was always fainthearted when it came to thinking of extremities. numerous patients and ailments, and tending to a lot of relatives with trivial as well as life-threatening rather than his own. Out of love. illnesses, he always exaggerated personal ones. Even a slight fever would say he was dying. Always.

fell ill in the first place. With the outbreak of Covid in Probably we did. Who knows? Kashmir, all the family members anymore. Even though he staunchly believed that whatever is supposed

It is another thing that he rarely

Despite being a medico and treating and stopped visiting mosque for it is alright to do away with one's face prayers, unlike many others. It was mask in non-crowded places where more out of fear for his grandkids

Yet he maintained that since we people keep going out from time to would take him to a point where he time and two people are medicos and hence have a high likelihood to contact the virus, we will be the ones to bring the infection home.

It was only after Ramzan that urged him to not visit the mosque he resumed Friday prayers at the He often went for short walks and

personal illness. Always to happen will happen, and that God to buy a few things here and there, will protect him, he did listen to us while donning a mask. Even though one is maintaining physical distance from everyone, I once found him walking without one and we had a lengthy discussion about it over dinner. Wearing one made him hot.

Things started turning ugly in July though. A relative passed away and my mother was adamant on paying them a visit. Even though we tried hard to convince her otherwise, she had made up her mind. Dad accom-



family a visit and help them out the he bathed the dead and praved for mosque again. Only Friday prayers. panied her. He always went for fu- best I can, who would come help them. Not in professional capacity, nerals, "If I do not pay the bereaved me in case of any eventuality?" So but to the best of his. It was 3rd of

July. Since it was a Friday, he returned to attend the prayers in time.

Everything was routine. Only a couple of days had passed Like every other time, he told mum that this is the end of it. "Witch, mei tche khoran ungzie zeithemtchie" (See, my toes are elongated.) Mum rubbished these talks like every the symptoms were nothing major,

with his grandkids, irrigated the garden, and all.

With each passing day, his fatigue got worse. So he asked the kids to walk on his legs, in hopes home alone, in public transport, so as that this would relieve his cramps. He slowly started losing his appetite as well. Initially he ate less, then he started denying eating but when dad started having his first would eat small portions on incessymptoms. Slight fever and fatigue. sant insisting, and then he didn't agree to eat at all. His fever started to get high and wouldn't drop below 101. On a rare occasion when it did, it shot back in the afternoon.

Since he was at a high risk, he other time. It was like calling a fake was already on medications prewolf; mum didn't pay heed. Since scribed to a Covid positive person. He was still at home because it is he continued his routine, tended to easier to take care, everyone was the kitchen garden, played around around him and his »PAGE 02