



Maximum : 27°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 77%

SUNSET  
Today 07:11 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:57 AM

# OBSERVER

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## 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 Anantnag

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 Qazung 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 Larkipora 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 Ayoub, Wazir Mohammad, Mazar Hayat, Mohammad Saeed and Majid 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

Agencies

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 Cooperation (OIC) early this month



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

### Amid Tensions With Saudi, Pak Moves Closer To China

It was the statement of Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood 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

to stop dilly-dallying on the convening of a meeting of its Council of Foreign Ministers on Kashmir.

Appearing in a talk show on ARY News, the foreign minister said: "I 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."

Qureshi said that if OIC fails to summon the CFM ●PAGE 02

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### Indian Agencies Keep Vigil Over Seven Active Chinese Air Bases

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 the Northeast.

"We are keeping a close watch on the Hotan, Gar Gunsa, Kashgar, 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.

The Chinese PLAAF ● 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 given

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



Ko Photo Abid Bhat

to reporters at his residence here after meeting NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar and former ministers

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 days 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 all-party meeting (convened ●PAGE 02

## 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 Assistant 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 in this regard.

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-

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 huge funds allocated for ●PAGE 02

## 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 Raj Kumar Gupta in ● P-02

## 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

He was always faint-hearted when it came to personal illness. Always thinking of extremities. Despite being a medico and treating numerous patients and ailments, and tending to a lot of relatives with trivial as well as life-threatening illnesses, he always exaggerated personal ones. Even a slight fever would take him to a point where he would say he was dying. Always.

It is another thing that he rarely fell ill in the first place. With the outbreak of Covid in Kashmir, all the family members urged him to not visit the mosque anymore. Even though he staunchly believed that whatever is supposed

## More Than Covid, I Lost My Father To Social Constructs

to happen will happen, and that God will protect him, he did listen to us and stopped visiting mosque for prayers, unlike many others. It was more out of fear for his grandkids rather than his own. Out of love.

Yet he maintained that since we people keep going out from time to 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. Probably we did. Who knows?

It was only after Ramzan that he resumed Friday prayers at the mosque again. Only Friday prayers. He often went for short walks and

to buy a few things here and there, while donning a mask. Even though it is alright to do away with one's face mask in non-crowded places where 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 accompanied her. He always went for funerals, "If I do not pay the bereaved



family a visit and help them out the best I can, who would come help me in case of any eventuality?" So

he bathed the dead and prayed for them. Not in professional capacity, but to the best of his. It was 3rd of

July. Since it was a Friday, he returned home alone, in public transport, so as to attend the prayers in time.

Everything was routine. Only a couple of days had passed when dad started having his first symptoms. Slight fever and fatigue. Like every other time, he told mum that this is the end of it. "Witch, mei tche khoran ungzie zeithemhtchie" (See, my toes are elongated.) Mum rubbished these talks like every other time. It was like calling a fake wolf; mum didn't pay heed. Since the symptoms were nothing major, he continued his routine, tended to the kitchen garden, played around

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 that this would relieve his cramps. He slowly started losing his appetite as well. Initially he ate less, then he started denying eating but would eat small portions on incessant 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 was already on medications prescribed to a Covid positive person. He was still at home because it is easier to take care, everyone was around him and his ●PAGE 02