



Maximum : 33°C
Minimum : 19°C
Humidity : 59%

SUNSET
Today 07:06 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:00 AM



News Digest

Police Officer Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: A police officer died on Monday after suffering a heart attack in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. ASI Abdul Gani Naikoo complained of chest pain following which he was rushed to nearby hospital for treatment, report said Monday. The doctors there, the report said referred him to Srinagar hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead on arrival. The deceased cop was a resident of Kanilwan Bijbehara. According to the reports, the reason behind the cop's death was a heart attack. A police officer told news agency KINS that a case in this regard has been registered and further investigation has been initiated.

Car Falls Into Gorge In Reasi, 2 Killed

Jammu: A woman was among two persons killed, while her husband and two minor daughters were injured when a car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Monday. The accident took place at Daggan top when the driver of the car lost control due to dense fog late Sunday evening while moving from Gool to Judda Arnas, a police official said. He said the car fell into a 60-feet gorge, resulting in the death of its driver Reyaz Ahmad (24) and Sameena Akhter (28). Akhter's husband Mohammad Shakeel and daughters – six-year-old Myra and eight month-old Mehar – were rescued in an injured condition and rushed to hospital, the official said.

Electronic Motor Blast Kills Soldier

Baramulla: A soldier from army's 11 Mahar unit, who was injured on Sunday due to electronic motor blast in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, succumbed to his injuries on Monday, officials said. Officials said that a soldier sustained critical injuries due to an electronic motor blast at Jaggu Post of 11 Mahar on 23 August. He was shifted to 92 Base Military Hospital Srinagar in critical condition for treatment, where he has succumbed to his injuries ● P-02

Man Held With 90 Stolen Cellphones

Srinagar: Police on Monday arrested a man after recovering 90 stolen mobile phones from his possession in central Kashmir's Budgam district. A police team arrested Muhammad Amin Ganai of Sadipora, Beerwah and recovered 90 stolen cellphones and 3 watches from his possession, news agency KNT reported. Quoting a police official, the report said that a case under FIR number 218/2020 under section 380, 457 has been registered at police station Beerwah in this regard.

Teen Among 3 Injured In Bear Attack

Srinagar: A teenage girl and two other women on Monday were attacked and injured by a bear in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The trio were busy in their agricultural fields near the power house, Kangan when a bear appeared there and attacked them, officials said. In the surprise attack, all the three women were injured, including a teenager. Officials said one among the women has sustained critical injuries. They identified the injured as Shaheena Begum, Jabeena Begum and Nusrat Jan, all residents of WaniMohallaKangan. They further added that the injured were brought to Sub District Hospital ● P-02

LADAKH STAND-OFF

India Ready For Military Action, If Talks Fail: CDS Rawat

NEW DELHI: India's armed forces are prepared to look at any military option if the extensive talks to restore status quo ante along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) did not yield any positive result, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat has said on the prolonged border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Gen Rawat, who has been part of the top military brass strategising on the Sino-India border issue, said a "whole of government" approach is being followed to peacefully resolve the row.

The armed forces are always prepared for military actions if all efforts to restore status quo ante along the LAC don't "fructify," the CDS said when asked about the over three-month-long border row.

Gen Rawat, who was the Chief of Army Staff from December 2016 to December 2019, said the transgressions take place along the LAC because of varying perceptions about it by the two countries.

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-half months but no significant headway has been made for a resolution to the border standoff.



File Photo

China Launches Advanced Warship For Pak Navy

China has launched first of the four advanced naval warships it is building for Pakistan, amid deepening defence ties between the two all-weather allies. The launching ceremony for the first warship was held at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai on Sunday. Pakistan-China defence ties turn a new chapter with ● P-02

On Thursday, the two sides held another round of diplomatic parleys following which the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said they had agreed to resolve outstanding issues in an "expeditious manner"

and in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Gen Rawat and the three service chiefs are regularly meeting to review India's military ●PAGE 02

Sinha Wants J&K Special Status Restored

SRINAGAR: Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Yashwant Sinha on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir must get the statehood again and Article 370 and 35-A that were scrapped on August 5 last year, should be brought back.

In his twitter post, the former union minister, who is also the member of the Concerned Group of Citizens (CGC), welcomed the resolve of the local political parties here in Jammu and Kashmir to insist on the restoration of the status quo ante.

He stated that he stands with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and J&K must get Statehood again. The Articles 370 and 35-A must be brought back and in fact ● P-02

India, Pak Troops Exchange Fire Along LoC

JAMMU: After a brief lull, India and Pakistan troops on Monday traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a defence spokesperson, the Pakistan Army on Monday violated ceasefire twice by targeting forward areas in different sectors along the LoC in the district. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said.

He said there was no immediate report of any casualty on the Indian side. The firing and shelling from across the border first started in Sunderbani sector at 1.30 pm and was followed in Nowshera ● P-02

8 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K Toll 633

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people died of coronavirus in Kashmir on Monday, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly disease in the Union Territory to 633.

Among the victims, official sources said that three were residents of Kupwara, two from Budgam, as many from Pulwama and one from Bandipora.

They said a 70-year-old woman from Noorpora Tal in Pulwama district died during wee hours at SMHS hospital, 13 days after she was admitted and diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia.

A 65-year-old man from Lapora Kupwara, they said, was brought to SMHS hospital in wee hours and doctors declared him death on arrival. He was a cov-

Infant, 4 Pregnant Women Among 428 New Cases

At least 51 Defence and paramilitary personnel, four pregnant women and an infant were among 428 new cases of coronavirus reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday thus taking the number of people infected across the Union ● P-02

id positive and was referred to the hospital from GMC Baramulla, the sources said.

A 70-year-old woman from Lolab Kupwara who was admitted as a case of bilateral community acquired pneumonia, hypertension and ARDS died two weeks after she ●PAGE 02

Experts Say Kashmiri Women At Equal Death Risk From Covid-19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Contrary to the belief that more men die of Covid-19 than the opposite sex, the health experts Monday said that coronavirus disease has caused deaths at the same rate among men and women in Kashmir.

Dr Rouf Hussain Rather, In-charge Data Analysis section at Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir said Monday that 563 Covid deaths have been re-

corded in Kashmir. Among these, he said include 368 men out of a total of 16796 male positive cases and 195 women out of a total of 8191 female positive cases.

"The crude mortality rate is 2.1 % among men and 2.3% among women, which after statistical analysis appears similar. The apparent 0.2% more mortality among females has been found statistically insignificant," he said.

The Health Expert observed that the more positive ●PAGE 02

Speed Up Issuance Of Domicile Certificates, Jammu DCs Told

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed the Deputy Commissioners in Jammu province to expedite the process of issuance of domicile certificates in their respective districts.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma on Monday passed these instructions to the DCs while chairing a meeting convened to review the progress in the issuance of domicile certificates and progress on NRHM recruitments in the districts, an official spokesperson said.

The Deputy Commissioners, he said apprised him about the

certificates issued so far in their respective districts.

"It was informed that process of issuance of domicile certificates is in full swing in all the districts of the division," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the meeting was told that 82 thousand domiciles certificates have been issued in the Doda district through offline and online mode while in Rajouri a total 94 thousand domicile certificates have been issued so far in the district, and the process was on to clear pendency at the earliest.

The Div Com also reviewed the status of various schemes and asked the DCs to link ●PAGE 02

Fabricated Letters In Geelani's Name Affecting His Health Badly: Family

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Expressing concern over what it called a "vicious campaign by the vested interests" family of Syed Ali Geelani said on Monday that "repeated and fabricated letters" issued in the name of the veteran Kashmiri leader were affecting his health badly.

In a statement issued to the media, the family said, it was time to give ailing leader some amount of relaxation and his family, a space to attend him in a better position at this critical juncture.

"Geelani is in advanced age with multiple ailments. He needs round



File Photo

the clock medical as well as personal attention. Geelani throughout his life faced hardships, both physically and mentally, for his beliefs

and conviction. His recent health condition has stressed people especially his family. Therefore, it is time to give him some amount of relaxation and his family, a space to attend him in a better position at this critical juncture. Health condition of Geelani demands family to be careful, focussed and attentive, more so amid the pandemic."

"Geelani is a public and political figure and everyone reserves a right to be concerned about his personal as well as political status. The prime responsibility of his close family is to attend him. We will keep the people updated regarding his health and his representative, ●PAGE 02

Police Break-Up Midnight Muharram Procession In Old City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police used force and allegedly thrashed mourners to break up a mid-night Muharram procession in Zaidal area of the old city, witnesses said Monday.

Around 12:00 am Monday night, a sizeable number of mourners, mostly women and children, took out a procession from Khushal Sar locality in the interiors of Zaidal as per traditional practice, witnesses said. The procession was joined by more people as it passed through the narrow lanes of the lo-



File Photo

cality towards the shrine of Hazrat Mir Shamsuddin Araki.

"All the mourners were following

SOPs, maintaining social distance and wearing masks. When the procession reached near the ●PAGE 02

Civil Secretariat Employees Told To Deposit ID Cards On Transfer, Retirement

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday directed its employees working in Civil Secretariat to deposit their identity cards in the office of Senior Superintendent of Police (Security) within the complex on transfer or retirement.

The direction was passed in a circular issued by Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Manoj Kumar Diwedi.

"It has been observed that all the officers/officials working in the Civil Secretariat, J&K do not deposit their Identity Cards in the office of

Senior Superintendent of Police, (Security), Civil Secretariat on their transfer outside the Civil Secretariat or at the time of retirement.

"The matter has been considered and it has been felt that the failure to do so is fraught with serious consequences which may compromise the security of the Civil Secretariat," Diwedi said in the circular.

He said it is, accordingly, impressed upon all the administrative secretaries to direct the officers/officials under their control to deposit their ID cards in the office of SSP, (Security), ●PAGE 02

Panel Proposes Separate Board For Ladakh Schools

KARGIL: A committee on Monday proposed establishment of a new territorial board in Ladakh, emphasising that the schools in the Union territory be affiliated to a board which fulfills the realistic needs of the students as per the natural conditions of the region.

The committee for review of educational boards for schools in Kargil met under the chairmanship of Executive Councilor for Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, Phunsog Tashi here, officials said.

It also suggested equal representation from both Kargil and Leh districts in the new 'Ladakh Board of School Education' in order to make the process more inclusive in the larger interest, they said.

It was also pointed out ● P-02

Noted Arborist of Kashmir M S Wadoo No More

SRINAGAR: Noted Arborist Mohammad Sultan Wadoo passed away here on Sunday. He was 90.

Author of some twenty books on forestry and related subjects M S Wadoo has written extensively on the subject for Kashmir Observer. Wadoo served as Assistant Conservator of Forests J&K and has received several awards during his service. He was also associated with several UN programmes for conservation of forests. Wadoo has the ● P-02



After Ladakh, Cracks Now Surface In JKPC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Days after two senior Congress leaders in Ladakh resigned from their party posts citing observance of August 5 as 'Black Day', the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress party have trained guns at "incapable" president Ghulam Ahmad Mir, seeking his removal from the party top brass.

According to the reports, a section of Congress leaders have shot a letter to All India Congress Committee President, Sonia Gandhi seeking ouster of incumbent Jammu and Kashmir Congress President Ghulam Ahmed Mir removed from the post of president.

The rebel group reportedly led by former MLC, Advocate Ghulam Nabi Monga in a communiqué to Sonia

Gandhi have vehemently appealed to her to remove Mir from the president post claiming that he was not only 'incapable' but was also unable to motivate grass root level workers due to his 'tainted' past and his 'involvement' in infamous sex scandal.

"Before taking up this matter with you, we had already conveyed our reservations to in-charge General Secretary Ambika Soni and Ghulam Nabi Azad but nothing changed on the ground. Workers are leaving the party and it is the right time to save the Congress party from further deterioration," the signatories in the letter have written.

The signatories include former minister and General Secretary Congress Kheem Lata Wakhloo, ●PAGE 02

'FB Values Commercial Interests Not Human Lives': Ex-Civil Servants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A group of prominent former civil servants on Monday flayed Facebook for 'failing to implement its own policy' of discouraging hate speech in India.

"That this seems to have been done to protect Facebook's commercial interests is even more reprehensible", a group of 53 former diplomats, police officers and bureaucrats who have gathered under the banner of 'Constitutional Conduct Group' wrote in an open letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

"Commercial interests at the cost



File photo credit: Danish Siddiqui/Reuters.

of human lives? If these are the crass calculations Facebook indulg-

es in, it is no surprise that the calculus of hate is spreading ●PAGE 02

HC Dismisses Challenge To E-Stamping System In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the process of switching over to e-stamping system in Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea was filed by 'Srinagar Stamp Vendors Association' who had challenged government orders dated 25th March 2013 and 16th September 2013, sanctioning initiation of process of switching over to e-stamping system in Jammu and Kashmir and appointing stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) (SHCIL) to function as Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) on the terms and conditions fixed by the IFCL and also issuing formal mandate to the SHCL for the purpose.



The association had contended that they are contrary to Section 74 of the Act of 1977 and the Rules framed thereunder for purchase, sale and supply and use of stamps.

As per 25 March 2013 order, the government had ordered initiating the process to switching over to e-stamping system in the then State of Jammu and Kashmir;

It had appointment of the stock Holding Corporation of ●PAGE 02