



Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 44%

SUNSET
Today 06:23 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:21 AM

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News Digest

Pak Shells LoC In Rajouri: Army

Jammu: The Pakistani army resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said. "At about 1745 hours today, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Nowshera sector", a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said. Pakistan army violated ceasefire 38 times this month. An army personnel was

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Biker Dies In Budgam Mishap

Srinagar: A biker was killed in a road mishap in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday. 30-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Mir of Waterwani was critically injured when his bike was hit by a tipper (JK13-5911) near Mirgund on Thursday, reports said. He was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS hospital, where he died after battling with life for several hours, reports said. Meanwhile police has taken the cognizance of the accident

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Bear Mauls Woman In Tangmarg

Srinagar: An elderly woman was attacked and killed by a bear in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district, reports said Thursday. 55-year-old Zoon Begum, wife of Haji Muhammad Akbar Malik was walking in a field in Tumbherama village of Tangmarg when a bear appeared there and attacked her. The woman sustained serious injuries in the attack by bear. She rushed to hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, news agency KNT reported.

BJP Member From Budgam Resigns

Srinagar: A Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) member from central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday resigned from the party, a day after a Block Development Chairman was shot dead by suspected militants in the district. Abdul Rashid Bandy from Habber Drang area of Budgam, who unsuccessfully contested assembly elections on BJP ticket in 2014, announced his disassociation from BJP today, news agency KNT reported. Bandy's resignation comes a day after a BDC Chairman from Khag-Bhupinder Singh was shot dead by militants on Wednesday evening.

Labourer Killed, 7 Hurt In Kupwara Accident

Srinagar: A labourer was killed, while seven others, including three soldiers were injured on when an army vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Kupwara district of north Kashmir. Official sources said that the accident took place near Bari Baihka, some 25 kilometers from main town of Kupwara, at around 1:30 pm. A labourer identified as Daulat Hussain son of Amirdeen of Marsari was killed and seven other persons including three soldiers and four labourers were injured. The soldiers were identified as Subedar N S Nimbalkar, havildar Hav-S P Sanap and SepoySuleChandrakant of 216 Med. Regiment

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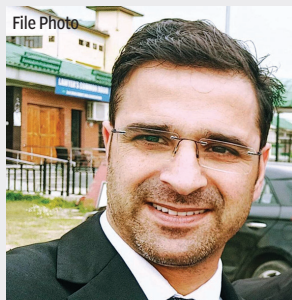
Lawyer, TV Penalist Babar Qadri Assassinated



KO PhotoBhat Bhat

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunmen on Thursday shot dead a prominent lawyer and a well-known television debater inside his home in Srinagar, sending shock waves in this capital city. Around 6:15 pm on Thursday, unidentified gunmen, believed to be two in number entered Hawal residence of Advocate



Babar Qadri and fired shots at him from point blank range, a police official said. Qadri sustained critical injuries in the attack while the gunmen managed to flee from the spot.

The official said that Qadri was removed by his family and neighbors to nearby SK Institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) for treatment. However, the doctors there pronounced him dead

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“THE BULLET HAD HIT HIS NECK, HEAD AND ARM. HE was brought dead to hospital,” SKIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Farooq Jan told Kashmir Observer.

Militants Kill CRPF Officer In Chadoora, Snatch His Rifle

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Thursday shot dead a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer and decamped with his service rifle in Chadoora area of Budgam district. Unknown bike borne militants appeared in Kaisarmulla village of Chadoora this morning and opened fire upon an officer of CRPF 117 battalion, reports said. The officer identified as Assistant Sub-Inspector N.C Badole collapsed on the ground in a pool of blood while the militants managed to flee from the spot along with his rifle. According to the reports, the injured CRPF officer was removed

Militant Killed In Tral Encounter

A local militant on Thursday was killed in an encounter with government forces in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said. Acting on specific input, army's 42 RR, police and the personnel of CRPF 180 battalion carried out a

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to army's 92 base hospital here for treatment. However, he succumbed to grave gunshot wounds. The deceased officer was a resident of Maharashtra. ►PAGE 02

Another Soldier 'Detained' With 2 Girls At Srinagar Airport

SRINAGAR- Tourist police Thursday detained two girls from north Kashmir's Kupwara district along with an Army man when they were roaming under suspicious circumstances at the Srinagar Airport.

Sources said that they were detained and handed them over to police station Humhama adding that the girls and the army soldier were being questioned at police station, reported news agency KNT. The army soldier in question has been identified as Sepoy Roshan Kumar of 17 Bihar Regiment. Both the girls are from Teetwal Kupwara and the soldier in ques-



File Photo

tion is also posted at Teetwal. Pertinently, on Sep 12 this month, Lance Naik Ashok Kumar Paul son of Rajander Pal, a resident of Uttar Pradesh who deputed at Ajas Bandipora with 13 Rashtriya Rifles was arrested with two Bandipora girls. A police official said that it was not an issue at all. He said ►PAGE 02

Pak To Hold Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Polls

India Objects, Says Elections In 'Militarily-Occupied' Region Illegal

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan has announced that the once-postponed election for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on November 15, amidst India's objection to Islamabad's moves in the strategically-located region.

President Dr Arif Alvi issued an official notification on Wednesday to fix the date of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

"The president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce Sunday, the 15th November 2020, as the poll day for the general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly in

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RSF Condemns Harassment of Journalist

SRINAGAR: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Thursday condemned the assault on Kashmiri journalist Auqib Javeed by police last week, and termed the behavior of cyber police akin to "authoritarian regimes and unworthy of Indian democracy".

In a statement, Paris based media watchdog, said that RSF condemns the threats and violence, including being

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British MPs Relaunch Kashmir Campaign

Agencies

LONDON: A group of seven Tory MPs have relaunched a group named 'The Conservative Friends of Kashmir', which is aimed at campaigning for 'self-determination' in Kashmir, sparking outrage among Tory-supporting British Indians.

The group recently tweeted, "We have relaunched the Conservatives Friends of Kashmir. We campaign for self-determination and an end to human rights abuses in Kashmir and Jammu. There is growing support for our cause amongst Conservative MPs and activists. Follow us and our work!"

The move has unnerved the Conservative Friends of India (CFI), which promotes the party

among British Indians.

Earlier this week, the group retweeted a tweet from Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PCK) President Masood Khan's Twitter handle, which said, "We are immensely grateful to you for re-launching the Conservatives Friends of Kashmir. Your voices shine like a ray of hope for the wounded Kashmiris in their darkest hour. Besieged, battered, disenfranchised -- they look towards you and your allies for justice."

The Tory MPs in the group include Paul Bristow (Peterborough), James Daly (Bury North), Jack Brereton (Stoke on Trent South) and Steve Baker (Wycombe), all representing constituencies with significant

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24 More Deaths Take Covid-19 Toll In J&K To 1088

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as twenty four people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities due to virus in the Union Territory to 1088.

While fourteen more Covid-19 deaths were reported from Jammu division, the remaining ten were confirmed by the officials in Kashmir valley.

According to officials, a 70-year-old woman from Bemina, a 65-year-old woman from Chana-pora and a 72-year-old man from Nishat died at the Chest Diseases hospital here, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients.

Seven of the deaths were reported at SKIMS Soura and included a 46-year-old man from Batmaloo, a 60-year-old woman from Malabagh Srinagar, a 68-year-old man from

Fateh Kadal, an 80-year-old from Noorpora, Tral, a 70-year-old man Tral, a 70-year-old from Tangmarg and a 60-year-old from Bandipora.

Among others, the deaths from Jammu division include a 78-year-old man from Samba, a 60-year-old woman from Nanak Nagar, a 62-year-old man from Satwari, a 66-year-old woman from Vijaypur, a 38-year-old from Khada Mana Samba, a 70-year-old from Gorkha Nagar, a 54-year-old from Jammu and a 30-year-old from Majalta Udhampur, a 22-year-old youth from Flora Nagbani in Jammu and 25-year-old from Sindira in Doda, a 38-year-old woman from Darhal and 64-year-old man from Jabba Nowshera.

With these deaths, 1088 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir—804 from Kashmir Valley and 284 in Jammu. (With GNS inputs)

New 1104 Cases Include 102 Security Men

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 1104 new cases of coronavirus, including at least 102 security personnel, 25 travelers and three minors, taking the total number of people in the Union Territory infected by the virus to 68614. While 624 fresh cases were confirmed from

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Arms Drops Via Drones Will Foil Pakistan Designs: DGP

SRINAGAR: State forces are alert to Pakistani efforts of dropping consignments of weapons and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir along the border and they will give a befitting reply to these attempts, Director General of Police Dillbag Singh said here on Thursday.

The DGP, talking to reporters after the wreath laying function for a slain CRPF officer, was replying to a question about drones being used from across the

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2 Cops Suspended Over Sopore 'Custodial Killing'

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday suspended two cops in connection with the alleged custodial killing of a youth in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

On Wednesday last, protests broke out at Sidiq-Colony area of Sopore after news spread that a youth Irfan Ahmad Dar, arrested by police a day earlier, has been found dead under mysterious circumstances.

While the family charged police of killing the youth in custody, the latter claimed that Dar was an OGW and his body was recovered near Stone Quarry of Tuijjar-Sharief, hours after

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Ladakh Councillor Granted Bail Over Video Clip Against PM, Army

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court on Thursday granted bail to a councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil Zakir Hussain who was arrested on June 19 for his "highly objectionable" audio clip mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Army in the wake of the face-off between India and China.

The councillor from Shakar constituency in Kargil district, Zakir had submitted a public apology over his remarks but case FIR No.34 of 2020 for offences under Section 124A (sedition), 153A, 153B, 505(2) and 188 of IPC) was registered with Police Station, Kargil.

Zakir, a long time Congress activist was expelled by the party on the issue, soon after his arrest on June 19.

"The challan in the case has been

filed, which means that the investigation of the case is complete. The petitioner (Zakir) is not alleged to have committed an offence which carries capital punishment, as such, the rigor of Section 437(1)(i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not attracted to the instant case," bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while granting bail to Zakir on furnishing personal bond with one surety of Rs.50,000.

The court said that Zakir is also elected representative of LAHDC having deep roots in the community as such the chances of his fleeing from justice are very remote.

The court also asked him to appear on each and every date of hearing before the trial court and not tamper with prosecution witnesses and not to leave the territorial limits of Ladakh without prior permission of

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In FOCUS New Language Bill Sparks Mixed Reactions In J&K

Swati Joshi

Introduction of Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi as official languages of Jammu and Kashmir has strong political connotations, said Mir Tariq Rasool, former Secretary J&K Adbe Markaz Kamraz (AMK) and Patron Kashmir Literary and philosophical foundation.

According to him, the new language bill has disseminated respect to the sense of identity among Hindi/Dogri-speaking people, but for Kashmiri-speaking people "it is nothing but a political trick", as the government, he said, is trying to introduce Devanagari script for

Kashmiri language instead of Nastaliq (a style of Islamic calligraphy).

"The second aspect of the bill is a linguistic divide of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding, "a huge chunk of Gujar and Pahari speaking people who are fighting for the official position of their languages have been left out again."

Notably, on September 23, the J&K Official Language Bill, 2020 was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. According to Minister of State G Kishan Reddy, the inclusion of Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi as official languages has been a long-standing demand of the people in J&K. He also mentioned that the government would also encourage

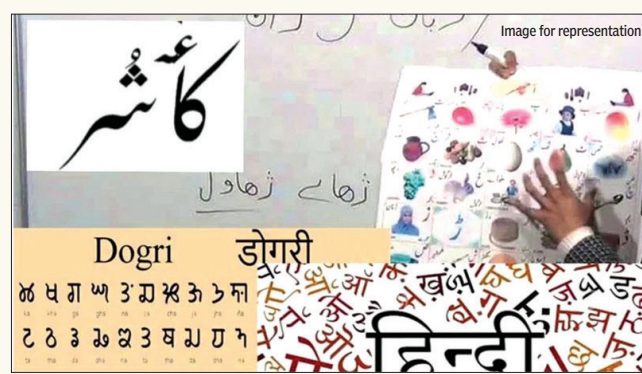


Image for representation

other local languages like Punjabi, Gojari and Pahari in the region.

Around 74 percent of people in J&K speak Kashmiri and Dogri

languages, he said. The minister also mentioned "the findings of the Census 2011" which, according to him, stated that "only 0.16 per-

cent population in J&K spoke Urdu while 2.3 percent spoke Hindi".

However, the decision was criticized by Member Parliament from Anantnag, Hasnain Masoodi.

The retired justice argued that the Bill is against the constitutional propriety because the law is a consequence of the J&K State Reorganization Bill which is under the judicial scrutiny of the Supreme Court of India.

"The constitutional propriety demands that the J&K Official Languages Bill be taken back as a mark of respect for the country's judiciary and principles of parliamentary democracy," he said, according to National

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