



P3 CITY

ADV KHAN FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO MAKE TULIP FESTIVAL A GRAND SUCCESS

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Tuesday directed the officers to make concerted and coordinated efforts to make the upcoming tulip festival in Srinagar a grand affair....

P7 THINK THE COLONIAL CROWN

The most explosive element of the Sussees' highly anticipated interview with Oprah Winfrey was the claim that someone within the royal household had "concerns" over how dark-skinned the couple's son Archie might be...



P11 SPORTS

WITHOUT COACH & CAPTAIN, REAL KASHMIR TAKE ON CONFIDENT TRAU IN I-LEAGUE TODAY

A coach and captain-less Real Kashmir FC will face a daunting task in returning to winning...



Widom Quote!

Ideas are the source of all things
—Plato

NEWS DIGEST

Covid-19 Claims Two More Lives In J&K

SRINAGAR: Two more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday even as 77 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The two victims were residents of Jammu division and Kashmir Valley, officials said Tuesday. Their deaths took the total fatalities count to **More On P10**

42 Militant Outfits Banned In J&K: MHA

SRINAGAR: The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs (MHA) G K Reddy Tuesday said that a total of 42 militant organizations have been banned in Jammu and Kashmir for being involved in unlawful activities. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the MoS Home Reddy said the list of 42 organizations include the names of the militant organizations active in the country and the number of **More On P10**

25 Shops, Three Houses Guttled In Blaze

SRINAGAR: At least twenty five shops and three residential houses were gutted besides property and goods worth lakhs of rupees was reduced to ashes in a massive blaze in Damhal Hanjipora area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that 25 shops, housed in a double-story old shopping complex in Nehama market and three houses in the **More On P10**

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Structures

SRINAGAR: The lakes and waterways development authority on Tuesday carried out a demolition drive in parts of this capital city and demolished several houses and structures erected illegally. The enforcement wing of LAWDA carried out demolition drive in the green belts of Nishat, Lashkari Mohalla, Handam Mohalla, Baber Shah and Miskeen Bagh in Rainawari and demolished **More On P10**

Woman Murdered At Her House In Kathua

JAMMU: A 55-year-old woman was found murdered inside her house in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Bholi Devi was living alone at the house in Parliwand village following a dispute with her husband Madan Gopal, Additional Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Rammish Gupta said. Gupta, who led a police party to recover the body, said the initial investigation and **More On P10**

Top Militant Killed In Sopore Encounter: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have killed Al-Badr Chief Gani Khwaja in an encounter in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Acting on specific inputs, special operations group (SOG) of police, army and the personnel of CRPF laid a siege around Tujjar area of Sopore on Tuesday evening and launched a combing and search operation, a police official said. When the search operation was in progress, the hiding militant, he said, opened fire upon the joint team in an attempt to escape from their dragnet.

"The fire was returned sparking off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, one militant was killed," the official said.

A local news agency quoted



IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar as claiming that Al-Badr chief Gani Khwaja has been killed in the Tujjar encounter and his killing was a big success for the government forces.

Earlier, Kashmir police announced

the outbreak of encounter on its official Twitter handle.

"Encounter has started at Tujjar area of Sopore. Police and Army are on the job. Further details shall follow," police Tweeted.

Talking to **More On P10**

MILITANCY DECLINED SHARPLY AFTER ART-370 REVOCATION: GOVT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Tuesday said the militant violence in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced significantly after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and cited a decline in militant incidents in the Union Territory in 2020 in comparison to 2019.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said in the Lok Sabha that 244 militant incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020 in comparison to 594 in 2019, while 221 militants **More On P10**

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GB Assembly Seeks Provincial Status From Pak

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: The Legislative Assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan on Tuesday unanimously adopted a joint resolution asking the federal Pakistan government to grant it provincial status and provide it with representation in Parliament and other constitutional bodies.

The resolution was moved in the Legislative Assembly by Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid Khan who represented the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He was joined in tabling the resolution by Opposition leader Amjad Hussain from Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) representative Ghulam Muhammad, Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) member Muhammad Kazim and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Rehmat Khaliq.

India has previously slammed Pakistan's attempt to accord provincial status to the "so-called **More On P10**

DDC Members Skip Training, Hold Protest For Better Status



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Cutting across party lines, the newly elected district

development council (DDC) members on Tuesday boycotted a two-day training-cum-workshop here **More On P10**

BJP Supports Agitating DDC Members

Extending support to agitating District Development Council (DDC) members, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure they have adequate powers to mobilise government departments and address public grievances. Cutting across party lines, newly elected DDC members boycotted a two-day **More On P10**

J&K Filed 196 POSCO Cases From 2015-19: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India Tuesday said that a total of 196 cases have been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act During 2015-2019 in Jammu and Kashmir. The GoI was replying to questions about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) across the country including the figures and measures taken.

In reply, the Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, GK Reddysaid that a **More On P10**

Illegal Occupation Of Govt Quarters Unfortunate: HC

Orders Eviction, Recovery Of Appropriate Rent from For Ex- NC MLA, Others

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court reiterated that it was very unfortunate that some former ministers, legislators, retired officers, politicians, etc., have illegally and unauthoritously managed to continue to stay in the residential

accommodation provided to them by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, though they are no longer entitled to such accommodation.

"Many of such persons continue to occupy residential accommodation commensurate with the office(s) held by them earlier and which are beyond their present entitlement," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said while dismissing a petition filed by former National Conference MLA **More On P10**

TRANSPORT TUSSELE

Private Schools Told To Submit Substantiate Docs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In order to put an end to transportation issues between the government and the private schools, authorities on Tuesday have sought substantiate documents from the private school management to justify charging transportation fees.

According to the

reports, the Committee for Fixation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) has directed the private school management to submit all supportive documents on the matter.

"In order to ascertain the genuineness of the information submitted by private schools and to enable the committee to **More On P10**



MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Mehbooba Moves Delhi HC Over ED Summons



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking quashing of summons issued to her by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for March 15 in a money laundering case.

The 61-year-old PDP leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

The petition is likely to be listed for hearing on Wednesday before a bench headed by Chief Justice D N Patel.

Besides, she has also sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3) of the Constitution. Section 50 of the Act gives powers to authorities regarding summons, production **More On P10**



VOICE OF A GENERATION

In Conversation With Farah Bashir

Yash Daiv

Farah Bashir's new book, Rumours of Spring, is a memoir of a teenage girl, who grew with the turmoil. It will be out in April 2021.

She talks to Kashmir Observer in an exclusive interview.

YASH DAIV (YD): Rumours of Spring is a voice that is never-before heard: That of a teenage girl. What prompted you to write this memoir?

FARAH BASHIR (FB): To articulate the silences of a young girl who is navigating her life in a war and confronting it when all she wanted was to escape it.

YD: In your mind, what is the first picture of the siege? What did you

see and how did you understand that something was not right?

FB: The year was 1989 and I was a few months away from becoming a teenager. It was on the eve of Eid. The day that started on a happy note ended in an interminable night. The opening chapter of my book comprises that memory.

My sister and I had gone to a salon to get a haircut and by the time we came out, the world as we knew it had completely transformed. The celebratory air had turned funeral. A strange bluish hue had descended upon the city; there were shards of glass and squished toys on the streets. Streets were deserted as a curfew had been announced.

After that metamorphic hour, the years that followed became a series of sharp contrasts: of love and loss, life and death, uncertainty and hope.

YD: What were the little changes you had to make when Kashmir was militarised? How did it invade your domestic space?

FB: The memoir documents most changes, both internal and external, that were brought about by the insurgency and dense militarisation.

Parts of our home became inaccessible, bunkers became the new landmarks, the way young girls dressed was no longer the same, some food habits changed, the games that we played as children changed too. Newer rituals were formed in homes.

Old ones vanished.

The book documents juxtaposition of the old and new realities.

YD: As a teenage girl, what fears did you feel?

FB: The fear of returning home to a dead family member loomed at large. It had happened to a few friends of mine, who lost their parents and grandparents to stray bullets or to motivated assassinations.

That fear of losing a loved one at any time, brutally, cast a shadow even before I had turned thirteen.

I grew up on a bustling street in the old city of Srinagar that was rarely quiet. When the night curfew was imposed for nearly a decade, I struggled to fall asleep to the **More On P10**