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P3 CITY

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHAB-E-MEHRAJ** CONGREGATION AT HAZRATBAL REVIEWED

Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim. Mattu along with Commissioner of the Corporation Athar Amir Khan Thursday visited Dargah Hazratbal Mosque and oversaw the arrangements



#### **SRINAGAR FACING A GARBAGE CRISIS**

Srinagar City, the summer capital of Kashmir is famous worldwide for its natural environment, gardens, waterfronts, and houseboats. Emperor Jahangir (a Mughal king in the 17th



P11 SPORTS

**INDIA FOOTBALL CAPTAIN SUNIL CHHETRI TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19** 

Indian football team captain and star striker Sunil Chhetri on Thursday said he has tested positive for COVID-19, a development that is set to rule him...



Quote!

Beginnings are such delicate times. —Frank Herbert

### NEWS **DIGEST**

#### **LG Greets People** On Shab-e-Meraj

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his heartiest greetings to people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Shab-e-Miraj. In his message of felicitations, the Lt Governor hoped that the auspicious occasion would spread the message of peace and promote the spirit of brotherhood, • More On P10

#### J&K Logs 75 Cases, **One Death**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 75 fresh cases of coronavirus, even as the deadly disease consumed another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials. the victim belonged to Kashmir Valley and the latest casualty has taken the total death count to 1969-729 in Jammu and 1240 in the Valley. • More On P10

#### **CRPF Man Shoots Himself Dead**

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personal on Thursday committed suicide by shooting himself dead in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Constable Amar Jyoti of CRPF 79 battalion shot himself dead with the service rifle of his colleague at a hotel in Humhama area of the district on Thursday morning, reports said. The deceased • More On P10

## Cop Killed In **Hit And Run Case**

SRINAGAR: A railway cop on Thursday was knocked to death by an unknown vehicle in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. 38-year-old Pervaiz Ahmad of Hatmulla, Anantnag was mowed down by an unidentified vehicle at Damjan area of Qazigund on early Thursday morning, officials said. Station House Officer (SHO), Qazigund Irshad Reshi • More On P10

#### **Decomposed Body Found In Kishtwar**

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday recovered a decomposed male body along the banks of river Chenab in Kishtwar district, officials said. They said the decomposed male body was recovered by the police soon after being informed by locals who spotted it. The body was shifted to Mortuary Room of district Hospital Kishtwar. The police has also • More On P10

# 2 Militants Killed In Overnight Encounter: Police



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Police claimed on Thursday to have killed two local militants of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) in an overnight gunfight in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

JeM militants Adil Ahmad Bhat and Zahid Ahmad Rather were killed on Thursday morning by the joint team of police, army's 3 RR and CRPF in Kandipora village of Bijbehara in the exchange of gunfire that ensued when

taken into case • More On P10 **CHARGES** olice on Thursday said that it has filed a chargesheet against a Pakistan based militant **FILED** and three of his associates, who were arrested **AGAINST** from Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. The chargesheet were submitted before the court in a case MILITANT,

# **Process To Appoint New VCs Age**ncies

**Govt Begins** 

SRINAGAR: Authorities have initiated a process for appointment of new vice chancellors in Jammu and Kashmir universities where term of Vice Chancellors have ended or are nearing completion.

There are around 11 universities in Jammu and Kashmir including two central universities. Several universities are run by the caretakers. Advisor in-charge Higher Education Department R R Bhatnagar said a process has already begun to appoint new vice chancellors where the term of previous VCs has ended.

In last few months, new vice chancellors were appointed at several universities in J&K. Process are also going in other universities," Bhatnagar said.

In April 2020, the Centre came up with the gazette notification for the acts that have been amended after the abrogation of article 370 which granted special status to JK and stripped it into two Union Territories.

According to the new amendments in the University Act of JK, the tenure of Vice Chancellor of Universities is three years.

The government last month appointed Dean Academic Affairs at Kashmir University, Academic Prof Akbar Masood as the new Vice Chancellor (VC) of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri in Jammu for a period of three years. The previous Vice Chancellor's term had ended in last year.

Similarly, the appointment of

# **MeT Predicts Downpour For 3 More Days**

Snowfall In Upper Reaches Of Kashmir, Rains Continue In Plains

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: Gulmarg and other reaches of Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall while rains continued to lash plains amid weatherman's prediction for "light to moderate rain and snowfall for next 36 hours.

A meteorological department official said that Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, received 7.6 centimetres fresh snowfall in last 24 hours till 0830 hours. In past four days,



north Kashmir received 60.1cm

the famed tourist destination in of snow and recorded a minimum temperature • More On P10

HIGHWAY **TO REMAIN** 

■he Srinagar- Jammu highway will remain closed on Friday for traffic in view of the weekly maintenance and repair works, officials said Thursday. In a statement issued here, the J&K Traffic police announced suspension of vehicular movement on the **CLOSED TODAY** 270 kilometre-long strategic surface link to carry out maintenance work. ● More On P10

# **Ex-Special Secretary Held** For Forging Date Of Birth

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: A former Jammu and Kashmir government official was arrested for allegedly forging his date of birth, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Črime Branch arrested Ghulam Mohiuddin Gani who was Special Secretary (Legal) in the Home Department till he was superannuated by the government on March 5 this year with retrospective effect from March 31, 2019.

Gani, a resident of Chadoora in Budgam district of central

Kashmir, was produced in a court which sent him to police remand, the spokesperson of the Crime Branch said.

He said it has prima facie been established that Gani "forged and manipulated his

#### **Govt Okays** 19% Hike For **Commercial Vehicles**

**Observer News Service** 

**JAMMU:** The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday approved fare hike of 19% for all categories of commercial passenger vehicles in the Union Territory.

The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved a fare hike of 19% to provide relief to commercial passenger transporters operating in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said Thursday. The decision, he said, • More On P10

# **Civil Secretariat To Go Paperless**

Press Trust Of India

**3 OGWS** 

**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council in Jammu and Kashmir has approved the adoption of e-office system in all departments of the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesman said on Thursday.

The time-bound roll out of eoffice in government departments at an estimated cost of Rs 67.62 crore will be a step towards the introduction of paperless office, besides, saving on the cost of shifting official records twice a year between both the secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar, he said.

The shift to e-office will bring a considerable improvement in the pace of disposal of official business and establish accountability through monitorable statistics of file movement, thereby improving public service delivery, the spokesman said.

The project entails setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Srinagar for providing high speed and uninterrupted connectivity, setting up ● More On P10

# Rohingya Refugees: Plea In SC Seeks Release Of Members Detained In Jammu

**Press Trust Of India** 

the former rejected repeated surrender offers and fired

upon the state forces to break

the cordon, a police spokes-

As per police records, he

said, both the killed militants

were involved in several

crime cases including attacks

on security forces and "civil-

including arms & ammuni-

tion were recovered from the

site of encounter. All the re-

covered materials have been

"Incriminating materials

person said.

ian atrocities"

FIR No 199/2020 registered at the police station Gan-

derbal, a police spokesperson said. 

More On P10

**NEW DELHI:** A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Centre from implementing any order deporting them.

An intervention application has been filed in the pending matter before the top court, which also sought direction to Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant refugee identification cards through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for the Rohingyas in the informal camps.

The application filed by Mohammad Salimullah, Rohingva refugee through advocate Prashant Bhushan, said that it is filed in the public interest in order to secure and protect the right against deportation of the refugees in India.



The plea said that it is filed to protect rights guaranteed under Article 14 and Article 21, read with Article 51(c) of the Constitution, against the deportation of Rohingya refugees who have taken refuge in India after escaping widespread violence and discrimination against their community in their home country

Myanmar. "Release the detained Rohingya refugees immediately and direct the Union Territory government and the Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant Refugee identification cards through the FRRO for the Rohingyas in the informal camps," it said.

It sought • More On P10

## **SOPORE 'CUSTODIAL DEATH'**

# **HC Seeks Govt's Response On Family's Plea**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir high court has issued notice to the government on a plea by family from Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, seeking copy of a magisterial enquiry report and filing of FIR into the alleged "custodial death" of their kin in

September last year. A bench of Justice Mohammad Magrey has sought the response by Mav

12 after hearing advocate Shafaqat Nazir for the family which alleges that their kin, Irfan Ahmad Dar of Sidiq Colony Sopore, was killed in alleged police custody on the night of September 16 last year as against the official version that the 23-year-old's body was found near a quarry at Tujjar-Sharief

after he "escaped taking advantage of the darkness.'

In the petition filed by Irfan's mother-Haja Begum, and his siblings- Tahira Akther (sister) and Javid Akbar Dar (brother) the family has sought copy of the magisterial enquiry report conducted on the directions

by District Magistrate Baramulla, as per petition.

The family has also sought directions to the police to register FIR with regard to "killing of Irfan in Police cus-

tody" as well as "adequately compensation the kin of the deceased." The court has issued notice to government through Commissioner cum Secretary Administration General Department, Principal Secretary Home Department, Director General Of Police, More On P10

# Beacon of Education Reemerges In Gritty Grades of Kashmiri Girls



Rakshanda Afrin

n his celebrated anthology, The Veiled Suite: The Collected Poem, Agha Shahid Ali details his grandmother's "bleeding heart"-which ensured the educational empowerment of the masses in the valley.

Shahid's poem, Prayer Rug in her memory, became a token introduction of "the lady with a lamp" – Begum Zaffar Ali.

this year my grandmother also a pilgrim in Mecca she weeps as the stone is unveiled she weeps holding on

to the pillars Beyond the poem, however, there's a staggering profile of the grand old lady of Kashmir-whose educational service made her legend.

determined, "Firmly



Begum Zaffar Ali with Mohammad Ali Jinnah in this pre-47 pic.

mother-in-law, Begum Zaffar Ali, was relentlessly advocating for women a self-made lady, who spent her life education and empowerment in the

valley," recalls Dr. Shaheena Agha, at her Rajbagh residence.

In the sweeping accolades being showered on the lockdown-hit girls whose recent grades once again made them the shining stars of Kashmir's dented academia, Begum Zaffar Ali found a glorious mention for inspiring generations of girls in the valley.

'My mother-in-law was one of the first Kashmiri girls whose grit made her a beacon of educational excellence," Shaheena continues.

"An untiring activist, Begum Zaffar helped Kashmiri women in one way or another. I take inspiration from her."

In her 60s, Shaheena first met Begum Zaffar as a 26-year-old woman, when she married the celebrated educationist's eldest son, Agha Nasir Ali, in 1986.

"It was an evening of mutual admiration and love," she talks about the first interaction with her • More On P10