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P6 THINK

BEING AND ITS VIOLENCE

Nowhere is subjectivity, a sense of subject's being, more pronounced than in a so-called 'conflict zone'. One's sense of being in a conflict zone is always reduced to its bare minimum wherein the subject sees itself solely or primarily in terms of

P7 THINK

MARAZ GALIH VEDH-WAN AADAT KATHI GALIH?

In an estranged period of Covid induced lockdown, we got ample time to be alone, to think about the things we usually ignore in other work packed days. Some of us spent the time binge watching



P12 OUTPOST

FIR LODGED AGAINST MUNAWWAR RANA FOR COMPARING VALMIKI TO TALIBAN

An FIR was Friday registered against poet Munawwar Rana for allegedly inciting religious feelings by comparing Valmiki, who wrote Ramayana, with Taliban, police said.



Widom Quote!
In life you need either inspiration or desperation.
—Tony Robbins

NEWS DIGEST

LG Grets People On Raksha Bandhan

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday greeted the people of Union Territory on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. The LG said that the Rakhi on a brother's wrist is a symbol of care, love and safety. "It represents a [More On P10](#)

Tourist Dies After Falling From Bridge

SRINAGAR: A tourist from south India's Chennai city died on Saturday after falling from a bridge in the tourist resort of Sonmarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 54-year-old Sumitri from Chennai fell down from a temporary bridge around the [More On P10](#)

Boy Drowns In Sindh Stream

SRINAGAR: In a tragic incident, a boy died after drowning in a stream in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, reports said Saturday. Zaheer Ahmed Khan of Shajinag Urpash village of the district drowned in Sindh stream when he was taking a bath, reports said. The incident occurred near new [More On P10](#)

5 Gamblers Held In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five alleged gamblers in an input driven raid in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Hilal Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Shadi Bhat, Tanveer Ahmad Ganie, Lateef Ahmad Mir and Irshad Ahmad Bhat were arrested by police during a raid in a Trigham village [More On P10](#)

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Gunfight In Tral Forests, 3 Militants Killed



Representation Photo

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three militants, who police said were associated with Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) group, were killed in an encounter with government forces in a forest area of South Kashmir on Saturday.

Security forces personnel had launched a cordon-and-search operation in the upper reaches of the forest area of Nagbaeran Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district following inputs about the presence of militants there, reports quoting police said.

Police said the search operation turned into an encounter when the militants fired upon the forces personnel, who retaliated.

"In the ensuing gunfight, three terrorists affiliated with JeM outfit were killed," police said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said one of the slain militants has been identified as Wakeel Shah.

"Shah is one of the terrorists included in the recently released list of top 10 terrorists wanted by the police. He was involved in the killing of BJP leader Rakesh Pandita. It is a huge success," the IGP told reporters at a press conference at the Army's Victor Force headquarters at Awantipora.

GoC, Victor Force, Major Gen Rashim Bali also addressed the media.

Kumar said [More On P10](#)

Eye On Taliban, Former Army Chief Says Need To Step Up Kashmir Outreach



Press Trust Of India

Kolkata: Former Army chief Gen Shankar Roychowdhury said the government needs to step up outreach in Kashmir and reassure people there that India will continue to be a secular democracy as the Taliban victory in Afghanistan is likely to see a renewed offensive by Pakistan-based militants.

The retired General, who had commanded 16 corps in Kashmir at the height of militancy in that state in early 1990s, and became Army chief later in the same decade when Taliban last came to rule over Kabul, believes that Pakistan, re-enforced by the recent Taliban victory, "will make a fresh bid on Kashmir" using groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Will Handle Taliban, Other Security Challenges: IGP

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Saturday said security forces were alert and would handle all challenges, including that of the Taliban, in the Valley. He sought the cooperation of the people in maintaining peace in Jammu and Kashmir "Speaking as a police officer whichever terrorist comes here, it is my job to generate input and neutralise him, as well as the threat, in an operation with the Army," Kumar told reporters at the headquarters of the Army's Victor Force in Awantipora area of Pulwama district. We will handle all the challenges in a professional manner and we



are totally alert, he said when asked about the threat of the Taliban in Kashmir. The IGP urged people to share information about militants, suicide bombers, or someone planning to set up IEDs, saying the society is [More On P10](#)

SPEAKING AS A POLICE OFFICER whichever terrorist comes here, it is my job to generate input and neutralise him, as well as the threat, in an operation with the Army."

He also said that India needs to reach out to both former Afghan government forces rallying around Ahmad Massoud, son of the late legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, in Panjshir Valley, as well as to factions within the Taliban which are

friendlier to India.

"We have to step up our outreach to Kashmiris, we also have to re-assure them that India will continue to be a secular democracy," General Roychowdhury who currently heads a strategic think tank Research Centre for Eastern

Taliban Attacked ITBP Contingent, Says Returned Soldier

The Taliban have attacked Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel, a part of Indian Army contingent in Afghanistan while they were leaving the country. The soldier who has returned from the war torn country has shared his horrific experience with his family members. Shailla K. Neelagar, aunt of Ravi Neelagar, a soldier attached to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) who returned safely to India from Afghanistan five days ago, has shared some of the information given by Ravi to them on Taliban's attack on Indian soldiers.

"Ravi told us that, when 200 of them were being evacuated from Afghanistan, their contingent was attacked by Taliban terrorists. When soldiers were boarding the flight, the Taliban tried to prevent them. They even snatched their luggage," she said.

Ravi was very sad that he lost all his belongings but family comforted him by saying his safe return [More On P10](#)

and Northeastern Studies, told PTI in an interview.

The central government had scrapped Article 370 and turned Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into two separate union territories from being a single state, while placing most Kashmiri [More On P10](#)

J&K Reports 144 More Covid Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 144 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, while 126 others infected by virus, recovered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 97 new cases of coronavirus surfaced in Kashmir Valley while the remaining 47 were detected in the winter capital during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 324095.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 31, Baramulla 8, Budgam 3, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 9, Anantnag 19, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 7, Kulgam 6, Shopian 1, Jammu 13, Rajouri 6, Doda 13, Kishtwar 10 and Poonch 1 new case of [More On P10](#)

Govt Okays Srinagar Land For Amarnath Shrine Board SASB To Pay Rs 250 Annual Rent For 25 Kanal Land

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has leased twenty five kanal land to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) against an annual rent of Rs 250 for the construction of board's office and Yatri Nivas in Pantha Chowk area of this capital city.

The revenue department on Friday issued an order approving the lease of 25 kanal land in Pantha Chowk area of the city to the Shrine Board for construction of office and 'Yatri Nivas' for a period of 40 years from the date of taking over the possession.

The order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, also reads



File Photo

that SASB will pay a "nominal ground rent of Rs 10/- per kanal per annum without charge of any premium subject to the condition that the land shall be used only for the purpose for which it is granted".

"The allotment/ lease shall be governed under the J&K Land Grants Act 1960 and the rules made there under," it adds.

According to the order, Srinagar's Deputy Commissioner shall sign the [More On P10](#)

'Don't Test Our Patience, Even US Had To Flee Afghanistan' Mehbooba Mufti Urges Centre To Hold Talks On J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked the Centre to take a lesson out of Afghanistan where the Taliban seized power and made the US flee, and urged the government to hold dialogue in Jammu and Kashmir and return its special status which was revoked in 2019.

Referring to the Taliban seizing power in Afghanistan, the



former chief minister warned the Centre to not test us" and asked the [More On P10](#)

BJP, Congress Fumes

Two major political parties the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Saturday slammed PDP President Mehbooba Mufti's comparison of Kashmir situation with Afghanistan and accused her of indulging in "politics of hatred." Jammu and Kashmir BJP [More On P10](#)

NC, PC Spat Over Oppn Parties Silence On Art-370

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) and Sajad Lone led People's Conference (PC) engaged in a war of words on Saturday over the silence of 19 opposition parties on the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir special status during a virtual meeting on Friday.

People's Conference on Saturday said the silence of opposition parties on Article 370 -- abrogated by the Centre -- is tantamount to an endorsement of the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir special status.

The party's statement came a day after a virtual meeting of the leaders of 19 opposition parties demanded the release of all political prisoners in Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of its full statehood including J&K cadre of central services and the conduct of free and fair assembly elections at the earliest.

The meeting of 19 opposition

parties by selectively parroting the demand for statehood and criminal silence on Articles 370 and 35A has endorsed the revocation of the special status of J&K, J&K People's Conference (JKPC) spokesperson Adnan Ashraf Mir said.

"In a statement issued after the meeting, there was no mention of repealing the decisions taken by the BJP government on August 5th 2019, he added.

Mir said the opposition has buried the demand of the people of J&K of bringing back Articles 370 and 35A and the domicile rights of the erstwhile state.

Two senior leaders (NC president) Farooq Abdullah and (PDP president) Mehbooba Mufti attended the meeting. They failed to convince the opposition parties to put restoration of Articles 370, 35A and domicile rights on their agenda. Why did these senior leaders attend the meeting when they could [More On P10](#)



Kashmir Observer lensman Abid Bhat captures a beautiful view of sunset with the historic Jamia Masjid in the Old City in the foreground.

Facebook 'Reporter' Held For Extortion

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday got seven days remand of a person, allegedly associated with a Facebook user running news and current affairs, in connection with extortion case registered against him in Police station Baramulla.

The police arrested the person, Ashiq Mir, in connection with FIR 177/2021 under IPC sections of 384 (extortion) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Confirming the arrest and subsequent police remand of seven days by the court of jurisdiction, a police officer told a local news agency GNS that more arrests are expected in coming days.

He said at the instance of Ashiq Mir, who is said to be associated with FB page Kashmir Crown, Rs 1 lakh "extortion money" has been recovered so far.

He said that further investigations are underway.

MP's Panel Reviews Srinagar Smart City Project

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Parliament Standing Committee on Urban Development on Saturday visited the city centre Lal Chowk.

The delegation led by sitting MP, Urban Development, Jagdambika Paul along with MP Hasnain Masoodi, Commissioner SMC and city Mayor visited Multi Level Car Parking at Press Enclave in Lal Chowk to take stock of the ongoing multi-crore project.

On the occasion, Paul said the centre has more responsibilities towards the development of Kashmir and there is a need to explore more employment op-

tions for our youth.

The committee reviewed the projects under smart city mission, Atal mission for rejuvenation and urban transformation (Amrut), Swachh Bharat mission urban, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-urban, implementation of Metro projects in Kashmir and functioning of CPWD.

The committee members will be holding a series of meetings during the visit for an in-depth understanding of their issues and problems. This visit came almost two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met top political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir.

AIMIM MP Unhappy Over Pace Of Work

AIMIM MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, who is part of a visiting parliamentary panel, on Saturday expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of developmental works here under the smart city project.

The amount of work that ought to have been done under the smart city project has not been done. We were shown small toilets and drainage works. Crores of rupees have been spent in other cities under the smart city project, but why is it not spent here, Jaleel told reporters here.

Jaleel is part of the Standing Committee on Urban Development which visited the under-construction multi-layer parking facility at Press Enclave here.

He said the BJP is "in full control" of the Union territory and they cannot complain.

Now, you have no way to complain as all the control is in your hands and if you want to, you can do it. But, you do not want to do it as you want to destroy Kashmir, he said, lashing out at the saffron party.

The committee also visited the famous Dal Lake here and the MP from Aurangabad (Maharashtra) said the condition of the water body was regrettable.

Dal Lake has the same meaning for Kashmir and Srinagar, as Taj Mahal does for Agra. Seeing the condition of Dal Lake is regrettable. It is not rocket science to understand how the lake can be cleaned, he said.

Jaleel said the livelihood of about 5,000 people depends on Shikaras in the Dal Lake, but they have not received any help from the government.

We have asked them to include the shikaras under the smart city project to help them, he said.

Court Orders Police To File Case, Probe Bemina Woman's Death

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Two years after the death of a woman due to "teargas smoke" allegedly fired by the police, a trial court at Srinagar Saturday directed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar to appoint a police officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent to investigate the cause of woman's death.

The court recorded said that as per the victim family, Fahmeeda of Bemina locality expired on account of consuming excessive smoke during teargas shelling that took place in the locality on 9 August, 2019-three days after Article 370 abrogation but the police didn't register any FIR on the matter despite approached by the family.

A plea was moved by the deceased' husband through counsel Shah Faisal and Ehsan Javid who had sought a direction from court to direct SHO police station Bemina to investigate the cause of the death.

Advocate Shah Faisal, told Kashmir Observer that police were maintaining that they have already filed an FIR in the case and the investigation is going on. However, they contested the claims.

"The FIR (number 272) was registered regarding a protest incident outside JVC hospital. This incident was a separate one and has nothing to do with the JVC protest. So

we told them to lodge a separate FIR and investigate the same," he told Kashmir Observer.

He said, the investigation into the incident will be done under the supervision of the court.

"The police have to submit a status report after every 20 days before court for perusal," he further said.

The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate pointed out that the cause of death needs to be ascertained and investigated.

The trial court recorded that the victim family despite moving to police for registration of FIR, the SHO concerned police station Bemina refused to file an FIR, thus constraining them to move to court.

The concerns of the petitioner family that the reason behind the death needs to be addressed and the investigation is required to take into account all the subsequent developments, "thereof the areas of investigation that the police concerned didn't adhere to has to be revisited under the direction of this court," the court observed.

The court pointed out that the refusal of the SHO to register an FIR needs to be taken note of seriously.

The court noted that in cases where the magistrate finds that the

police has not done its duty of investigating the case at all, or has not done it satisfactorily- the magistrate has the power to issue a direction to the police to do the investigation properly and can monitor the same.

"So, there is no harm in registering an FIR into the incident and investigating the circumstances under which the death took place," the court recorded.

The court was informed that on 9 August, 2019- a protest broke out at around 6:00 Pm in Firdous Colony, Bemina and the adjoining areas against the revocation of Article 370 of the constitution of India.

The security personnels responded with heavy tearsmoke shelling directly targeting the house of the petitioner without any reason. In the shelling, the window-panes of the house broke and the deceased who was doing household chores inhaled excessive smoke.

The deceased started feeling breathlessness and choking due to excessive inhalation of smoke. She was taken to hospital but on the way, the deceased was choking with blood oozing from her mouth. Ultimately she died due to sudden cardiac pulmonary arrest due to acute lung injury caused by toxic gases.



Medical Superintendent's Of SMHS, Khyber Hospital Felicitated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In continuation to the recognition and acknowledgment of the efforts of the people who relentlessly rendered selfless services during the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, the District Administration Srinagar today felicitated Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital Dr Kanwal Jeet Singh and Medical Superintendent Khyber Hospital, Dr Showkat Shah.

In this connection, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today handed over the Certificates of



Appreciation to both the Medical Superintendents at his office chamber during a simple felicitation programme.

On the occasion, the DC congratulated both the Covid war-

riors and said this is a small initiative taken by the District Administration to recognize the services of people who stepped out in service of people during peak of Covid-19 pandemic.

DC Srinagar Reviews Implementation Of SVAMITVA Scheme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday reviewed the progress on the implementation of the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme, removal of encroachments on state land and migrant properties and updating Registration of Revenue records.

On the occasion, the DDC highlighted the objectives of SVAMITVA Scheme. He informed that the scheme provides the 'record of rights' to village house-

hold owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages which, in turn, would enable them to use their property as a financial asset for taking benefits.

The DDC asked the officers to complete the process of demarcation of migrant properties by August 24. He also directed them to undertake survey and field verification of migrant properties in the district and complete the same by August 27. He further asked them to ensure all revenue entries are free from discrepancy.

While reviewing the progress on removing encroachments, the DDC called all the Tehsildars of



Srinagar to launch an intensified Anti Encroachment drive across district from Monday.

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR Jammu & Kashmir Industries Limited Old Secretariat, Srinagar, J&K

INVITATION FOR BIDDING NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

No.: JKI/Adm/Ten/02:3252/2021 Date: 20.08.2021

The Managing Director, Jammu Kashmir Industries Limited on the behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Jammu and Kashmir invites sealed bids (to be submitted through e-procurement) from eligible Bidders for the following works:

Name of Work	Date of Availability	Date of Closing	Date of Opening
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Various Machinery for Hosiery and Knitting Units at Jammu & Srinagar. (JKI/MAC/HK/G011/21)	21.08.2021 (11 OOhrs)	21.09.2021 (14 OOhrs)	21.09.2021 (15 OOhrs)

Detailed Bidding Document which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.

Sd/-
Managing Director Jammu
Kashmir Industries Limited

DIPK-NB-2776/21

J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)
e-TENDER NOTICE NO: SICOP/RMDZ/2021-22/10/389
Dated : 17-08-2021

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of J&K SICOP, fresh Online tenders are invited from reputed companies who are registered with the competent authority for "Purchase of Hard Coke 'A' Grade for the year " 2021-22".

S. No	Particulars of the tenders	Approx. quantity	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money	Date of opening of Pre Qualification Bid
01	Purchase of Hard Coke "A" Grade Dust & Moisture free for the year 2021-22	500 Mts	Rs 1,000/-	RS 3,00,000/-	11-09-2021 At 1500 Hrs.

- The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 21-08-2021.
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 21-08-2021 (1200 Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 21-08-2021 (1200 Hrs) up to 10-09-2021 (1630 Hrs) only.
- The uploaded technical bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 11-09-2021 (1500 Hrs) in the office of Divisional Manager (RM) SICOP Zainakote, Srinagar in presence of bidders who wish to be present at Zainakote, Srinagar. In case of holiday/off day bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who will qualify in technical bid.
- Cost of tender document (in shape of Demand Draft) and Earnest Money Deposit (In shape of CDR/FDR) in original, favoring Managing Director, SICOP superscripted as "Pre-qualification Bid" should reach in the office of Divisional Manager SICOP Zainakote, Srinagar in person or through speed post/Regd post/Courier before due date & time of submission of bid. The corporation shall not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.
- The quantity of purchase shown above is tentative and subject to increase/ decrease depending upon the actual demand with SICOP.
- Original copy of affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by Judicial Magistrate 1st Class to the effect that:
 - The documents/certificates etc enclosed with the Technical bid are genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.
 - The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt/ Private Institution of the country and there is no case pending in Vigilance/Any other investigating agency.
 - If anything is found adverse in respect of documentation or otherwise, legal action warranted under law shall be initiated against the tenderer(s) submitting the tender.
- All documents as required in SBD should be uploaded with the technical bid.
- Complete bidding process will be online (Price Bid not to be submitted in physical form).
- Managing Director J&K SICOP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Other Terms and Conditions as mentioned in the SBD shall form an integral part of the contract.

Sd/-
Divisional Manager (RM)
SICOP-Zainakote
DIPK-NB-2798/21

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

This Day in History

- 1942 - Brazil declares war on Germany, Japan & Italy
- 1943 - Soviet troops free Karkov
- 1944 - Adolf Hitler orders Paris to be destroyed
- 1953 - Shah of Iran returns to Tehran
- 1956 - US President Eisenhower and VP Richard Nixon renominated by Republican convention in San Francisco.
- 1958 - Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island.
- 1962 - Failed assassination attempt on French president Charles de Gaulle
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1963 - NASA civilian test pilot Joe Walker in the X-15 rocket plane achieves a world record altitude of 354,200 feet (107,960 m, 67 miles)
- 1964 - Guinea, Liberia & Ivory Coast form joint market
- 1968 - The Society of Labour Lawyers (SLL) publishes an 'interim report' about alleged discrimination in Northern Ireland; the report is heavily criticised by unionists.
- 1971 - Approximately 130 non-Unionist councillors announce their withdrawal from participation on district councils across Northern Ireland in protest against Internment (allowing suspected terrorists to be indefinitely detained without trial)
- 1972 - Rhodesia is expelled by the International Olympic Committee for its racist policies.
- 1982 - Israeli General Ariel Sharon urges Palestinians to discuss peaceful coexistence
- 1984 - The United Democratic Front, an internal coalition of anti-apartheid groups in South Africa, organizes a highly successful boycotts of the Colored and Indian elections to parliament.
- 1985 - Airtours Boeing-737 crashes at Manchester airport, 55 killed
- 1986 - Gas from Volcano Chamberoen kills 1,734 (Cameroon)
- 1986 - NASA announces tests designed to verify ignition pressure dynamics
- 1988 - Australia unveils 1st platinum coin (Koala)
- 2004 - Athens Olympic marathon is run on same route as 1896 Games, start at site of the Battle of Marathon to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens; Mizuki Noguchi of Japan wins women's gold in 2:26:20
- 2007 - The Storm botnet, a botnet created by the Storm Worm, sends out a record 57 million e-mails in one day
- 2008 - The Jamaican team led by Usain Bolt smashes the world 4 x 100m relay record in the final at the Beijing Olympics; disqualified in 2017 as Nesta Carter tests positive for prohibited substance
- 2008 - Ethiopian distance runner Tirunesh Dibaba wraps up the women's 5,000/10,000m double at the Beijing Olympics when she takes gold in the 5k in an Olympic record 15:41.40
- 2008 - Russia wins the women's 4 x 100 m relay ahead of Belgium & Nigeria at the Beijing Olympics; disqualified in 2016 when reanalysis of Yulia Chermoshanskaya's samples result in positive test for prohibited substances
- 2012 - 47 people are killed in the Syrian civil war
- 2012 - 48 people are killed in Kenyan tribal wars between the Pokomo and Orma
- 2012 - Russia and Vanuatu become members of the World Trade Organization
- 2013 - 14 people are killed by a suicide bombing in Western Iraq
- 2017 - India's highest court outlaws instant divorce for Muslim men (talaq, talaq, talaq)

From KO Archives

Gunmen loot Budgam village

CHADURA (BUDGAM)- Police are on the lookout for some unidentified gunmen who 'raided' several houses in a village here to extort money. They decamped with the booty ranging between Rs five and Rs 2,000. In another case, where a shopkeeper was relieved of Rs 8,800, an FIR No 2472 was lodged with the police on Friday.

According to reports, unidentified 'gunmen swooped on Chil Yech village in this district at about 8 p.m. on Sunday. They forced their entry into several residential houses asking the inmates not to leave their premises. Then they went on relieving them of whatever they had in cash on gunpoint. Reports identified the victims as Muhammad. Yousuf Wani, Muhammad Shafi, Abdur Rahman Dar, Jahangir Alam, Jalal-ud-din Paul, Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, Nazir Ahmad Paray, Ghulam Rasool Guiri, Amma Paray and Abdur Rasheed Guiri. The gunmen managed their escape under the cover-of darkness. Villagers lodged a complaint with the police who launched a manhunt to nab the gunmen.

Earlier, on Friday, some unidentified gunmen waylaid Abdul Ahad Sheikh, of Danchera, when he was on his way back home from Utligam in Beerwah area. They relieved him of Rs 8,800. An FIR was lodged with police at Beerwah on the same day. However, no arrest has been made so far. Unidentified gunmen also snatched Rs 400 from a shopkeeper of Utligam on the same day. (Kashmir Observer, August 22, 2000)



HIJRI
CALENDAR

13
MUHARRAM

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
4:27
ZUHR
12: 35
ASR
5:17
MAGRIB
7:16
ISHA
8:41

Foreign Pilgrims Happy to Perform Umrah After Long Hiatus

ARAB NEWS

RIYADH: Foreign pilgrims have expressed their happiness about being able to perform Umrah after a months-long hiatus due to the pandemic.

The first group of fully jabbed foreign Umrah pilgrims arrived

in Saudi Arabia on Aug. 15 after a temporary ban was lifted. Ishfaq Iqbal, from the US, said: "The Kingdom's efforts to serve pilgrims and visitors are clear and tangible through the diverse services, and we're bearing witness to the remarkable development."

Abdul Majid Al-Jazaeri, from Algeria, commended Saudi Arabia for its services facilitating Umrah for overseas pilgrims. He praised the carts on offer to help the elderly and those with health issues to move around with ease.

Umrah pilgrims from abroad are required to present a certificate of arrival that has been validated in their home country and states they have been fully jabbed with a vaccine approved by the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca,



Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Pilgrims must also adhere to quarantine measures if they are coming from countries where there is a ban on direct entry to the Kingdom.

The deputy minister of Hajj and Umrah, Abdulfattah bin Sulaiman Mashat, said that all Saudi Umrah companies had been preparing to serve foreign pilgrims and were dedicated to providing them with the best services, from their point of arrival until their departure.

in Saudi Arabia on Aug. 15 after a temporary ban was lifted. Ishfaq Iqbal, from the US, said: "The Kingdom's efforts to serve pilgrims and visitors are clear and tangible through the diverse services, and we're bearing witness to the remarkable development."

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Nigerian Police Fire On Ashura Mourners, Many Killed

Agencies

At least three people have been killed and a dozen more wounded after police forces attacked a commemorative Ashura mourning procession held by local Shia Muslims in Nigeria's northern state of Sokoto, a report says.

According to a report published on the website of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria on Friday,

sions were held in various state capitals and major towns across Nigeria without any report of the police attack on mourners, asking why such a brutal raid on mourners was carried out in Sokoto.

The Islamic Movement in Nigeria is led by Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky.

In December 2015, Nigeria's military launched a crackdown as part of a deadly state-ordered escalation targeting the movement



Nigerian police attacked Ashura mourners in the eponymous state capital with live ammunition and tear gas on Thursday, killing at least three people and seriously wounding 12 more. The mourners were commemorating Ashura -- marking the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam and grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the Karbala tragedy. The movement posted pictures of the bodies of the three mourners who were shot dead by the Nigerian police to refute their claim that "neither a Shia member nor anybody was killed or injured" in Sokoto on Thursday. The mourning ceremony was largely held peacefully, but police attacked at the end when mourners were saying the closing prayer. The movement identified those killed as Bello Muhammad Illela, Imrana Umar Yabo, and Hasan Abubakar Sokoto.

It also condemned the brutal attack on unarmed civilians. The movement further reported that Ashura mourning proces-

that Abuja has branded as illegal. The campaign saw the troops attacking Zakzaky's residence in the town of Zaria in Kaduna, afflicting him and his wife with serious injuries that reportedly caused the cleric to lose his left eye.

During the crackdown, the military also attacked the movement's members as they were holding religious processions, with the government alleging that the Muslims had blocked a convoy of the country's defense minister.

The violence led to the death of three of Zakzaky's sons and more than 300 of his followers.

However, on July 28, the high court in Nigeria's central state of Kaduna acquitted Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife, Mallimah Zeenat, of all the charges brought against them back in 2015 and ordered them released.

The trial originally commenced on May 15, 2018, but dragged on for over three years, when the high court -- presided by Judge Gideon Kurada -- eventually issued his final verdict.

Taliban co-founder Baradar in Kabul for talks on setting up govt

AFP

Arrested in Pakistan in 2010, Baradar was kept in custody until pressure from the United States saw him freed in 2018 and relocated to Qatar.

Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar arrived in Kabul on Saturday for talks on

ghan politics. A senior Taliban official told AFP that Baradar would meet "jihadi leaders and politicians for an inclusive government set-up".

Baradar arrived in Afghanistan last Tuesday from Qatar, choosing to touch down in the country's second-biggest city Kandahar -- the Taliban's spiritual birthplace. Within hours of his return, the

in Doha, where he oversaw the signing of the agreement that led to the agreement for US forces to withdraw and end their 20-year campaign.

The Taliban scotched any hopes of a negotiated peace deal with the Afghan government by overrunning the country in under two weeks -- a lightning offensive that ended with them taking Ka-



Taliban fighters take control of Afghan presidential palace in Kabul_ person second from left is a former bodyguard for former president Ashraf Ghani _AP

establishing a new "inclusive" government in Afghanistan, a senior official said.

Other senior Taliban leaders seen in the capital in recent days include Khalil Haqqani -- one of America's most wanted terrorists with a \$5 million bounty on his head. Pro-Taliban social media feeds showed Haqqani meeting Gulbuddin Hekmatyar -- a former bitter rival during the brutal civil war of the early 1990s, but still influential in Af-

bul unopposed last Sunday. On Friday, Khalil Haqqani -- the uncle of Taliban deputy leader Sirajuddin Haqqani -- was seen leading prayers at a mosque in Kabul. Another key leader of the so-called Haqqani network -- Anas Haqqani -- was also in the capital and had met former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, who led the overall peace process of the previous administration.

He was appointed head of the Taliban's political office

group announced its rule would be "different" this time.

The Taliban have said they want this iteration of their government to be "inclusive", but have given few details of who it would include. Arrested in Pakistan in 2010, Baradar was in custody until pressure from the United States saw him freed in 2018 and relocated to Qatar.

India to prioritise granting visas to civil society members, opinion makers, women activists from Afghanistan

PTI

In line with its historical ties with Afghan people, India will prioritise granting visas to civil society members, opinion makers, women activists, students and NGO workers from Afghanistan in view of the current situation in the country, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

Afghan people feeling threatened or facing the fear of persecution and those who supported India in rolling out various welfare and development projects will also be given priority for grant of visas, they said. However, they said the government's immediate priority is to evacuate the stranded Indians from Kabul and arrangements are being made in coordination with the US and other partner countries to bring them home. It is learnt that all back-up plans have been put into place to facilitate their return at the earliest. Amid fears of a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, a number of countries such as the UK, Canada, have already announced resettlement schemes for Afghan refugees while several others have agreed on providing temporary shelter to them.

Two days after Kabul fell to the Taliban, India on Tuesday introduced a new category of electronic visas called "e-Emergency X-Misc Visa" to facilitate the grant of visas to Afghan nationals after review-

ing the situation in the conflict-ridden country. The people cited above said India will continue to stand by those Afghan people who have supported India in various ways. Following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, thousands of people

The people said another priority for the government has been to facilitate the evacuation of the members of the Hindu and Sikh minorities from Afghanistan.

The majority of the people from the Sikh community in Afghani-



rushed to the airport in the Afghan capital in a desperate attempt to flee the country fearing the Taliban's brutality.

"We have a historical relationship with the Afghan people and I think that relationship will continue to guide our thoughts and outlook," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in New York on Thursday. India has been a key stakeholder in Afghanistan and it has invested nearly \$3 billion in carrying out nearly 500 projects across Afghanistan.

stan possess long-term Indian visas. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday set up a round-the-clock special cell set to keeping track of stranded Indians in Afghanistan, ascertaining assistance being sought and advising a further course of action.

The Taliban swept across Afghanistan this month, seizing control of almost all key towns and cities including Kabul in the backdrop of the withdrawal of the US forces. Kabul fell to the Taliban on Sunday.

Two killed in a suicide bombing targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan

Reuters

A suicide bombing targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in southwestern Pakistan killed two children and wounded three on Friday, police said.

The suicide blast took place at the East Bay Road in the port of Gwadar at around 7pm. Chinese

China is involved in the development of the Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea as part of a \$60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is itself part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure project. The Pakistan interior ministry said that a young boy ran out of a nearby fishermen colony and exploded himself about 15-20 meters from the convoy.



nationals sustained minor injuries, a police statement said.

Gwadar is in the southwestern province of Balochistan, where separatist militants have waged a long-running insurgency.

"Two children have been killed and three injured in the attack," said Liaquat Shahwani, a spokesman for the Balochistan government. Balochistan Liberation Army, a separatist militant organization claimed responsibility for the attack.

"BLA carried out a 'self-sacrificing' attack against a convoy of Chinese engineers," the group said in a statement.

"As a result, a Chinese national was injured, he was rushed to nearby Gwadar hospital where he is stable," the ministry said in a statement. The four vehicles carrying Chinese nationals were escorted by the army and police.

Pakistan is already undertaking a comprehensive review of the security of Chinese nationals in the country, the interior ministry statement added.

In July, an attack on a bus in the northwestern province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa killed 13 people, including nine Chinese workers. Two Pakistani soldiers were killed as well.

Israeli strikes on Syria kill 4 pro-Iran fighters: monitor

AFP

BEIRUT: Israeli air strikes on Syria have killed four pro-Iranian fighters allied to the Damascus regime, a Britain-based war monitor said Friday. Syrian state media earlier said its air defense system engaged "hostile targets" over the capi-

group, but it was not immediately clear whether they were Syrian or Lebanese, the Britain-based war monitor said.

Lebanese media also earlier reported two missiles had fallen in the Qalamoun region. The Israeli army rarely acknowledged its strikes in Syria and a spokesperson told



tal Damascus late on Thursday. "The Israeli enemy launched an aerial attack... targeting positions near Damascus and around the city of Homs," a military source told state news agency SANA.

"Our air defense responded to the missiles and shot most of them down."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Israeli missiles had targeted "arms depots and military positions" belonging to Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah, in the Qarah area in the northwest of Damascus province, near Homs province and the Lebanese border.

The strikes had killed four members of the Iran-backed

AFP it did "not comment on foreign media information."

However, since the start of the war in Syria ten years ago, Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes on Syrian territory, targeting regime positions as well as allied Iranian forces and members of Hezbollah. Israel regularly says it will not allow Syria to become a stronghold of its sworn enemy Iran.

The Syrian conflict, which began in 2011 with the regime's repression of pro-democracy protests, has grown increasingly complex over the past decade, drawing in more and more parties.

According to the Observatory, the war has left nearly half a million people dead.

NEWS MAKER

No Security On Ground Or Air: Airline Pilot Recounts Kabul Escape

Many Afghans in the company were "discussing ... plans B and C in case of Taliban arrival ... there was a great fear among Afghans," Kam Air pilot Jovica Rajhl said.

Reuters

Skopje: As thousands of people thronged Kabul airport in a bid to escape the advancing Taliban on August 15, Kam Air pilot Jovica Rajhl and his colleague had to resort to subterfuge to reach their plane and take off safely.

Rajhl, 54, a North Macedonian, said that ahead of the fall of Kabul, his employer Kam Air, the largest Afghan private airline, had contingency plans to rebase its three Boeing 737 and three Airbus 340 to Ukraine's capital Kyiv. But the advance of the Taliban was too quick.

Many Afghans in the company were "discussing ... plans B and C in case of Taliban arrival ... there was a great fear among Afghans," Rajhl told Reuters on Friday in Skopje, where he lives.

Rajhl said that he and his colleague were told to prepare for a flight to Kyiv on Sunday, August 15, shortly after news reached them that the Taliban had taken over government buildings in Kabul.

"The airport was completely open ... all the security people were gone," he said.

Thousands of Afghans hoping to board planes out of the country flocked to Kabul airport. The capital has swelled with people from other provinces fleeing the advance of the Taliban.

Rajhl's Boeing 737 was parked away from the main boarding platform, where throngs of people "were climbing and falling from ladders," he said.

Three Kam Air planes were already blocked by the crowds.

"Our biggest fortune was that no one paid attention to us. One of us

was not in uniform but in civilian clothes," he said.

Passengers from their flight were told to board quickly and as night fell, Rajhl and his crew decided to start engines in complete darkness to avoid drawing the attention of the crowd.

"It was good that the people on the other side (of the runway), and I am sorry about them, could only hear noise but saw nothing moving with its lights on."

Shortly before takeoff, the crew had been warned via radio that they would have only 10 minutes to depart, after which their "security will not be guaranteed on ground and in the air".

Rajhl's plane finally took off at 20:32 local time and, after refueling in Tbilisi, Georgia, made it to Kyiv.



Bollywood Gave Visibility To Kashmir, Not Enough To Kashmiris: Sharmila Tagore

KO News Desk

Srinagar: Veteran Bollywood actress Sharmila Tagore has said that the film industry has brought visibility to Kashmir but has not given enough to Kashmiris or Kashmiriyat. Speaking to Times of India, she recalled the everlasting memories and experiences of working in and visiting Kashmir. The veteran actress spoke about shooting various films and visiting popular locales in a state that has long been considered paradise on Earth and was a firm favourite for filmmakers and tourists alike.

She said: "Our films brought Kashmir to the doorstep of the rest of the country. My very first Hindi film was shot in Kashmir. In fact the film was 'Kashmir Ki Kali' (1964). I look back at the first day's shooting with so much nostalgia. The location was Nehru Park and Dal Lake. What a beautiful lake it was then, huge and brimming with water. I was rowing a shikara, wearing a beautiful, 'Phiran', and Kashmiri silver jewellery, singing Diwana Hua Badal. I was a little nervous as I was first time lip synching. I remember vividly that Asha Bhonsle and OP Nayyar were also there and once I finished the shot for the antara of the song, Ashaji came and embraced me and said, 'Well done and I am so happy.' That was so encouraging."

"We shot in Gulmarg, Pahelgam, Sheshnag on Baramullah road and even Shopian. There we shot the final dance sequence between Shammiji and I. Every-

thing was beautiful and serene. We now read about these places in the newspapers but back then our films brought Kashmir to the doorstep of the rest of the country. Our films have given so much visibility to Kashmir but



we didn't give enough visibility to the Kashmiris or to Kashmiriyat.

Subsequently, I have been to Kashmir with 'Amne Samne', 'Talash', 'Mausam' and many more films. In fact every April / May and September / October was spent in Kashmir. Even Tiger and I shot our advertisement for Gwalior Rayon there."

"I love Kashmir. I love everything it has to offer. Its carpets, shawls, paper mache, wooden artefacts, zafran and khubanis. I remember during my earlier visits, we used to wear cherries in our ears as earrings. I used to bring back Honey suckles and other exotic flowers from my trips to Kashmir."

She said: "We could see a change in the relationship between the tourists, the security and Kashmir."

Rising Inflation, Joblessness Pushing J&K Into Distress: NC

KO News Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Thursday expressed concern over price rise in essential commodities, saying rising prices coupled with increasing joblessness are pushing poor households in J&K to a point of distress.

Party general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar while drawing the attention of the incumbent government towards the distress signals of J&K economy due to pandemic and the resultant depleted saving, slashed incomes and job losses.

He said that there was widespread disappointment in the people with the administration's callous handling of economic distress. He further added that one of the promises in the run up for reading down the state's status was to draw

focus of the union government on welfare in JK. The situation on ground, Sagar added, was appalling and the forecast not promising as well. "Public welfare doesn't fall in the to-do-list of the government. People have been left to fend for themselves," he said.

Sagar said the lower middle classes and other marginalized sections are additionally burdened by the crunch of escalating price rise of all the basic commodities and mounting power and drinking water tariffs have further burdened them. "The contracting JK economy already has had an adverse effect on the household incomes, the supercilious escalation of terrific basic public utilities and soaring inflation has pushed the people especially to wall. Let alone spending on clothing, medicine and education,

people are not able to get two square meals for their families. It was expected that the crumbling economic activities in JK post 5, August 2019 will have a restraining effect on government's taxation policy but the unabated rise in the electricity and water tariff has given slip to the unconcerned attitude of the government," he said.

"Growth and progress of the entire region has been stunted post 2014 floods. Let alone redressing the genuine political aspirations of the people of JK, the incumbent administration is also unheeding of the day to day issues of the people. Despite our stout opposition, the prices of petrol, diesel, and LPG have reached all time highs. It goes without saying that if the trend continues, it will dent already stressed sectors of Kashmir economy beyond repair," he added.

Several Stranded In Jammu As 40 Trains Cancelled Due To Farmers' Protest In Punjab

Agencies

JAMMU: Thousands of passengers are stranded in Jammu and Kashmir as railway authorities have cancelled over 40 trains since Friday due to an ongoing agitation by farmers in neighbouring Punjab, officials said.

Scores of farmers on Friday launched an indefinite agitation in Jalandhar and blocked

train movement on the Ludhiana-Amritsar and the Ludhiana-Jammu railway routes to press the Punjab government to accept their demand to increase sugarcane prices and clear issues related to pending dues. "A total of 40 trains were cancelled since yesterday (Friday)," an official of the Northern Railways told PTI on Saturday.

He said only a few trains left the Jammu railway station on a different route on Friday, while early Saturday morning rains in Delhi forced cancellation of some more trains bound for Jammu. "Twenty trains were cancelled on Saturday. Some trains scheduled later in the day are likely to leave the Jammu station for their destinations," the official said.

The cancellation of trains has left thousands of passengers stranded in Jammu and they were seen making desperate

attempts to get information from railway authorities. "We had come for the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage and came to know that all the trains have got cancelled due to the farmers' agitation in Punjab," Neha, a young woman from Haryana, said as she looked for buses or taxis to leave with her family.

Another passenger from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh said, "The farmers should have given a 10-day ultimatum before launching the agitation so that people could plan their trip accordingly."

He said that his train was scheduled at 2 pm but its cancellation has left him and his family members stranded. "A traveller usually has a limited budget. How can I feed myself and other family members?" he said requesting the Punjab government to hold talks with the farmers as soon as possible and lift the blockades.

Riyaz Beigh Is New Addl Mission Director UMEED

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Riyaz Ahmad Beigh Saturday assumed the charge of Additional Mission Director Kashmir, J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (RLM) popularly known now as UMEED.

Immediately after assuming office Riyaz held a meeting with the officials of Kashmir Division and emphasized on providing accountable, responsive administration to the people.

He further asked the officers to work with zeal and dedication and fulfill the purpose of the mission.

While informing him about the overall progress made by the Mission in the Kashmir Division, it was given out that 236163 Rural women have been federated into 28185 SHGs and an amount of Rs 1018435 crores has been provided to the SHGs as capitalization from the Mission till July.

Div Com Appeals People To Follow SOPs, Get Vaccinated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole Saturday took a serious note of the recent increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in some districts of Kashmir division and labelled this increase to non-compliance of Covid SOPs especially during gatherings.

He appealed to the general public to follow Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB) in letter and spirit to prevent the transmission of covid infection in their communities and families and help the administration to keep the Covid at bay.

The Div Com insisted district

administrations to enhance the pace of Covid-19 vaccination in unvaccinated population especially in the age group of 18-44 years who are mostly asymptomatic/pre-symptomatic when they contract the virus and roam free as asymptomatic carriers in the areas which lead to the increase in the number of cases in their communities and vicinities.

He also stressed for further augmentation in efforts by involving all the line departments in all the districts in order to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage of this age group in the shortest possible time in order to reduce the risk of transmission of this dreadful virus.

Kashmiri Trucker, Associate Thrashed In HP For 'Islam Zindabad' Slogan Inscribed On Vehicle

Agencies

Srinagar: A Kashmiri truck driver and conductor were allegedly beaten by unknown people in Damtal area of Himachal Pradesh for "Islam Zindabad" inscribed on their vehicle. Fayaz Ahmad, owner of the vehicle, said that his driver Rayees Ahmad and conductor Salman Dar, both residents of Watral village in Khanshib hamlet of Budgam district were allegedly beaten by unknown persons on Friday evening.

Fayaz said that while they were unloading at the cardboard factory in Hamtal, unknown persons came and started beating them ruthlessly and despite 60 persons present at the factory, "nobody intervened".

He said that the goons were

continuously questioning them about the "Islam Zindabad" written on their vehicle.

"Despite contacting the authorities of the factory, nobody came to our rescue," Fayaz said.

"What is wrong in writing Islam Zindabad on vehicle as hundreds of non-local drivers visit Kashmir on daily and had written different things in praise of their religion but nobody questions them here," he said. The victims demanded that the matter must be investigated and also the CCTV footage must be checked to book the culprits.

"If we have committed any mistake we are ready to face any punishment. But if we are not guilty then the involved person must be dealt strictly as per the law," he said.

DC Gbl Stresses On Time-bound Completion Of Works

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna inspected construction of fencing at Govt. Middle School Chashma Manasbal Pehlipora, construction of grill fencing around Jamia Masjid Koulpora, improvement of malar Road at Khood and earth filling of Public Park at Barkati Mohalla.

The DC stressed the BDO for on-time completion of all works in the block and directed him to speed up the progress of work on other ongoing works so that they get completed within set timelines.

While inspecting other works in the area, the DC said that the purpose of visit to Safapora block is to have firsthand appraisal about the progress of ongoing works and to assess the developmental needs in the areas.

DLSA Kupwara Holds Awareness Programme

KUPWARA: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kupwara organized an awareness programme in collaboration with Cultural Education Wing of Kupwara on the topic "Victim Compensation, Acid Attack and Rape Victim".

The daylong programme held at Boys Higher Secondary School Kupwara, witnessed participation of various legal experts, academicians, doctors, besides, a large number of school children under the guidelines of Legal Services Authority of J&K.

Four Diagnostic Centres Sealed For 'Denying' Information Under RTI

Agencies

Srinagar: Four diagnostic centres were sealed in Rohama block of Baramulla as they have failed to submit the details of their centres. The owners of the centres, however said that the details are already with the government.

Four diagnostic centres Life Care Diagnostic Centre, LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services, Gousia Clinical Lab and Lalpath Labs Collection Center were sealed as they have failed to submit the information which has been sought by a person under RTI. Private Diagnostic Centre Association District Baramulla in a letter to CMO Baramulla has said

that information sought is very personal and as private institutions they are not supposed to give details to anyone. President of the association said that if a person has sought information from the government, it is the government that has to answer him, not the private Institutions. He said that whatever information has been sought by the RTI applicant has been already submitted at the directorate office and CMO office at the time of registration, "then for what our centres have been sealed."

"If the applicant is seeking information of many districts then why only few centres of Rohama are being made scapegoats," he said. President Private diagnostic centres association Kashmir Umar Dhar said that for promo-

tion and to mint money such acts are being done on ground.

"We are being harassed without any provocation and to hide their failures Pvt diagnostic centres are being made scapegoats," Dhar said.

They requested director health and other higher ups to personally look into the matter.

"Higher ups asked us to submit all details of private diagnostic centres working in our jurisdiction and it will take them a minute to provide this information," he said.

He said that the association has submitted a letter that they are not bound to give information to anyone but the direction office had rejected their claim and said that anyone can seek information from them.

"Whatever information private centres submit at time of registration, they submit it at Direction office but now direction office has sought information from us and if they don't provide us the details then what we will submit," he said.

"Higher ups have pressured that action will be taken against the defaulter BMO as centres working in jurisdiction of other BMOs have already submitted information," he said. "If they don't have any problem, then why are few centres creating problems for me and themselves as well."

BMO Rohama Mohammed Asif said that centres were sealed only as they failed to submit the information sought from them.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Selection List of eligible candidates for admission to GNM (Lateral Entry) courses-2021.

Reference: Notification No.075-BOPEE of 2021 dated 12-08-2021.

**NOTIFICATION No: 077-BOPEE of 2021
DATED: 19-08-2021.**

Pursuant to Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021 read with Notification No. 075-BOPEE of 2021 dated 12-08-2021, the physical round of counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for GNM (Lateral Entry) courses 2021 was held on 17-08-2021 & 18-08-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit-cum preferences are provisionally selected for admission to GNM (Lateral Entry) Courses-2021 in various Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the list annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 20-08-2021 to 27-08-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Mark Cards of FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate.
6. Any other certificates/ document as required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions upto 27th August-2021 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (27-08-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holiday/ off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / jakbopees@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com on 27th of August-2021 (upto 05.00 PM).

Note:

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, who is selected in open merit or some reserved category, as per the eligibility bench marks, and as provided in INC Regulations, the college / institution concerned shall constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any candidate who do not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE. Such a seat shall be deemed to be vacant and shall be filled in subsequent round(s) of counselling to be held later-on.
3. For fee / documents required for admission in the College/ Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact concerned College / Institute before the last date of admission i.e., 27-08-2021.
4. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in e-information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time on the subject.

DIPK-NB-2788/21

No: BOPEE/Exam-10/2021

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE
Dated: 19-08-2021.

DEMISE

I inform the demise of my beloved grandfather Shri Habibullah Shah Son of Ab Gani Shah of Bemina Srinagar on 19th of August Thursday.

The congregational fath khawani will be held on Sunday (August 22) at their ancestral graveyard Anjuman Masjid Qamarwari Srinagar at 10:30 am.

Bereaved Family
Rabiya Sultan Shah



ASHAI FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sudden demise of Begam Showkat Ashai R/o Ashai Villa Gogji Bagh, Opposite New Convent School Srinagar who left for heavenly abode today i.e; 20th August 2021 (Friday). May Allah Almighty grant her highest place in Jannat Ul Firdous. Ameen

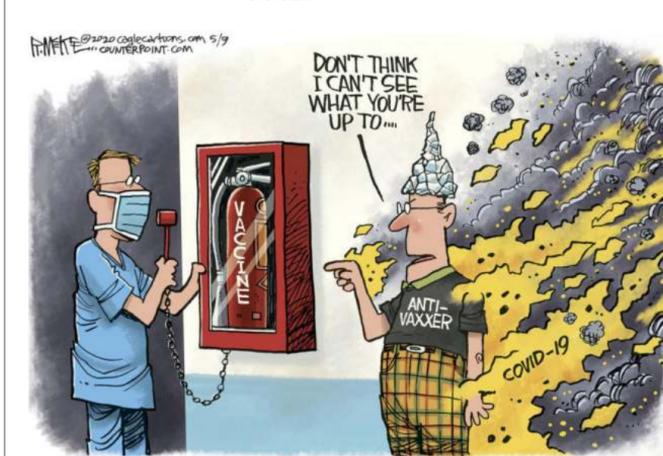
The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 23rd of August 2021 (Monday) at 9:00 AM at our ancestral graveyard Ashai Kocha Fateh Kadal Srinagar.

Bereaved: Ashai Family
9419000716, 9419000466

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The Taliban has not trusted Pakistan since it sided with Washington in the global war on terror and handed over several Taliban leaders to the US. Since the US signed a peace agreement with the Taliban in February last year and announced plans to withdraw its military from Afghanistan, the relationship between the Taliban and Islamabad "has been transforming and divergences will increase".

Being and Its Violence

Though a Kashmiri remains hyper-aware of what happens around her and adapts, the violence overpowers her

Nowhere is subjectivity, a sense of subject's being, more pronounced than in a so-called 'conflict zone'. One's sense of being in a conflict zone is always reduced to its bare minimum wherein the subject sees itself solely or primarily in terms of her life, how to manage survival amidst all the precarity. But at the same time, subjectivity is heightened to its extreme as well, when the subject strategizes ways to avoid being killed or maimed and when she shapes her identity consciously in opposition to the forces adamant to extinguish its traces.

Mir Uzair Farooq

Kashmiris don't say it for mere rhetorical effect that to be sensitive to their suffering an outsider has to be in Kashmir. Witnessing and being there has its own effect, an effect which Kashmiris through their embodied experiences of violence cultivate a different sense of

In Kashmir, the routine forms of violence make a Kashmiri give up on his assertion as a subject, as someone who can publicly make his sense of selfhood and identity felt but at the same time she cannot but catalog the occurrences of violence through her mere bodily and psychic presence. After all, she is the raw material that the violence is fabricated from. In a zero-sum game, the insults, injuries, and humiliations that whittle her identity assimilate in her body-psyche.

But it would be wrong to judge that resistance blurs the effect of domination; if it did, there would be no zone of conflict as such. Though a Kashmiri remains hyper-aware of what happens around her and adapts, the violence overpowers her.

In its routinization, the violence is so consummate in Kashmir that it escapes a vocal, meaningful expression. It can only be felt, with its ultimate referent being the Kashmiri bodies. Everyday violence creates the 'existential,' to use Arthur Kleinman's phrase, in which life itself operates and is negotiated, in Kashmir.
From the requisitory ID card



showing to waiting in line on the national highway for a military convoy to pass unhindered to replying the uniformed military personnel with a 'Yes, sir,' when approached, these minor acts extinguish the most rudimentary elements of subjectivity, acting as medium for the 'code of violent domination'. In a brutal irony, the most vivid assertion of Kashmiri identity occurs through its complete negation in voluntary death—in martyrdom. In an ugly reverse of necropolitics, the body reserves its privilege to be the last resort of communication. Ilja Srubar captures this irony perfectly in her neologism 'a-semiological communication,' in which any meaning-making is broken by violence and the body becomes the signifier and the signified of the violence around.

Kashmiris don't say it for mere

rhetorical effect that to be sensitive to their suffering an outsider has to be in Kashmir. Witnessing and being there has its own effect, an effect which Kashmiris through their embodied experiences of violence cultivate a different sense of.

The violence distorts not only the notions of self-identity of Kashmiris but guts the symbolic—social and cultural—matrix that anchors such notions. People, through inter-subjective communication and exchange, partake in the design of the symbolic institutions through which they mediate their lives. The microphysics of domination works so intelligently in Kashmir that the symbolic institutions figure only as an extinct resource for Kashmiris to recollect a sense of lost identity out of. Mute harmless graffiti, almost unreadable.

Expression of violence, when not elusive due to its sheer overwhelmingness or banality, comes at its own cost. The means to express, in Kashmir, are few and far between. Besides the written word, photography and videography have been resorted to for capturing the collective Kashmiri suffering. There has been an outpouring of videos and photographs in the hope that the sense of sight being most sensitive will at least provoke. But with Kashmiris passive in front of the countless scenic niches of Kashmir, they have done little except alerting one to the wickedness endemic to the world of violence, to the conflict in Kashmir, or desensitizing us to the gruesome spectacle of life, as Susan Sontag has beautifully registered in her discussion of pain and its representation.

Metaphors, analogies, and other figurations abound in the case of Kashmir—not long ago Kashmirization entered the lexicon for everyone's use. One expression that, with regard to violence, often gets narrated is, "If you fill it to the brim, it will likely spill." There is quite a spillage of violence in Kashmir, affirming the expression, but that is not simply due to cause and effect. Violence, by Kashmiris, has become a form of being; it is politics, of the violated and dispossessed, a compromised but chosen means to an end. As things stand, it will keep spilling.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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Pakistan's decision makers have their fingers crossed ahead of an eagerly anticipated speech by Taliban chief Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada that will cast the die for Afghanistan's political future.

Islamabad hopes Akhundzada's policy-defining address, expected to be delivered by Sunday, will reassure the international community that the Taliban has evolved from a globally reviled terrorist group into a palatably responsible state actor, according to journalists who this week attended a briefing conducted by Pakistan's powerful military.

However, Islamabad is also concerned that Akhundzada's speech could trigger an international backlash against Pakistan because of its long-standing support for the Taliban – particularly from the United States and other Nato members humiliated by the sudden capitulation of the Afghan government last Sunday.

Since then, widespread shock at the ease of the Taliban takeover and heart-rending scenes of Afghans desperately trying to board evacuation flights out of Kabul have focused the world's attention on the abandonment of Afghanistan by deposed president Ashraf Ghani's administration, and the handling of the US military withdrawal by President Joe Biden.

At the same time, Pakistan has lobbied the international community – close allies China and Russia in particular – to garner support for collective diplomatic engagement with the Taliban as a means of ensuring that the group keeps its promises to form an inclusive administration, prevent terrorist attacks from Afghanistan, and allow women access to education and employment.

Apart from Afghanistan, "Pakistan has the most to gain from peace in its neighbour and the most to lose from strife and instability", said Maleeha Lodhi, a former Pakistani ambassador to Britain, the United Nations and the US.

"As the situation today is in flux in Afghanistan, it is too premature to say

what Pakistan stands to gain or lose. That would depend entirely on how the situation pans out," she told This Week In Asia.

So what exactly is Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban?

The South Asian nation has long had a paradoxical role in Afghanistan – accused of providing covert support to the Taliban on one hand, while playing a major supporting role in the US war on terror against al-Qaeda on the other.

Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban was formed in the mid-1990s, after the Islamist militia emerged from the southern Afghan province of Kandahar to quell the chaotic civil war that had been going on since the departure of occupying Soviet forces in 1989.

Many of the predominantly ethnic Pashtun Taliban fighters and their families lived in Pakistan as refugees, spoke Urdu and were friendly with their hosts.

On the other hand, the non-Pashtun factions making up the Northern Alliance opposed to the Taliban had a history of hostility towards Pakistan predating the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Islamabad was forced to set aside its preferences in Afghanistan when presented with an ultimatum by the US after the September 11 terrorist attacks planned by al-Qaeda leaders hosted by the Taliban.

Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf seized the opportunity to once again make his country a close ally of the US, thereby gaining it billions of dollars of debt relief and military aid.

Islamabad, however, was galled when Washington ignored its advice to accept a Tali-

At the same time, Pakistan has lobbied the international community – close allies China and Russia in particular – to garner support for collective diplomatic engagement with the Taliban as a means of ensuring that the group keeps its promises to form an inclusive administration, prevent terrorist attacks from Afghanistan, and allow women access to education and employment

ban surrender and include the group in negotiations on Afghanistan's political future.

Instead, the 2001 Bonn agreement led to the creation of an Afghan government dominated by the Northern Alliance, the leaders of which were friendly with India, Pakistan's perennial foe.

After US political attention switched to the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and Washington began to draw down on its military assets in Afghanistan, Pakistan's relations with the government in Kabul deteriorated.

American officials in 2004 reported that Islamabad had quietly resumed supporting the Taliban after the group showed signs of resurgence in the provinces of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan.

Winners And Losers - Part 1

With the Taliban's ascendancy in Afghanistan, does Pakistan stand to gain or lose?

Tom Hussain

Pakistan's military leadership against launching a nationwide offensive while Nato forces were still in Afghanistan, and to engage in negotiations with the Kabul government on sharing political power.

The Associated Press last month reported that Pakistan's army chief of staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa was so frustrated by the Taliban's intransigence that he twice walked out of meetings in Islamabad with its leaders.

This friction was further evident in early August when the Taliban closed the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing with Pakistan to press demands for visa-free cross-border movement of Afghan nationals. The Taliban also threatened to suspend Pakistan's trade via Afghanistan with Central Asia.

Stanford University analyst Asfandyar Mir said the Pakistan-Taliban relationship, "which has effectively weathered everything the last two decades", will be further tested now that the Taliban are in power.

Issues of governance, the decades-long border dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the overall foreign policy of the Taliban would be at play, he said.

"The relationship will have more pressure points," Asfandyar said. "History doesn't repeat itself, but it tends to rhyme, especially in this region. So I do remember that in the '90s, after the collapse of the Najibullah government, Pakistan soured on the mujahideen once the power-sharing arrangements lapsed and the civil war intensified."

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer.

Tom Hussain is an Islamabad-based journalist and Pakistan affairs analyst. The article was originally published by South China Morning Post

Maraz Galih Vedh-Wan Aadat Katih Galih?

The disease will go by the doctor's shop, but the habit will never go

Ahtisab Ul Haq

They had immense potential to provide education in an interesting way, if used judiciously. They are here to remain and it's us who need to rethink our strategy and habits while interacting with these platforms. We have to limit its potential abuse and must cultivate the habit to keep ourselves engaged in productive work. We have to talk to our children about its benefits and about its ill effects

In an estranged period of Covid induced lockdown, we got ample time to be alone, to think about the things we usually ignore in other work packed days. Some of us spent the time binge watching movies, web-series, playing games on our smartphones, and some on browsing social media endlessly, some gossiped about the conspiracy theories firstly about the origin of virus, then about ill effects of its vaccine. Some took time to perfect their art, craft, knowledge, skills etc. to build themselves in a healthy way.

Plainly speaking, I am from the former category. The period starting April 2020 to July 2021 felt quite depressing for most of us. Luckily for me, the only plus point from that period is that I got some insights about the habits I have. As I enquired about the status of my habits (whether habit is good or bad), I got to know that many philosophers from ancient Greece to modern day psychologists have already provided immense insights on 'habit'. The one question that baffled me is whether a great person is made great by his habits or whether he became great because he has some particular habits or whether my habits make me a common man or I being a common man has different habits than great people. I didn't get a simple answer to this question but I got some key insights that are generally valuable to other people.

Habits as they are mostly automatic responses tend to save our times. Humans are, by our nature, creatures of habit. Approximately 45% of our reported activities in a given day are habitual, performed automatically without much thought. Our morning routine, if we first check our phones or go for a walk when we wake up in the morning, is a habit. The route, the type of vehicle you prefer when going to school or office is a habit.

For a common man, the term Habit is used interchangeably with automaticity. Like other automatic responses, habits are activated in memory in an autonomous fashion without requiring executive control. A variety of cues might trigger habit performance including aspects of physical environment, other people and preceding action in a sequence. Once habits form perception of the relevant context cues automatically activate the mental representation of the habitual response. Once habitual responses are activated, people can act on the response in mind without making a decision to do so. Habits strengthen through associative and reward-learning mechanisms that capture the slow, incremental nature of habit formation. With each repetition, small changes occur in the cognitive and neural mechanisms associated with procedural memory.

Habit disruption due to increase in technology usage in present circumstances: Prior to the pandemic the education was only complemented by digital platforms for school going children their primary education and nurturing was done in the physical setting of schools with face to face contacts with teachers and their peers. But as the whole education came to standstill, the education was compelled to be transferred to an online system. The



induced effect of this transfer was the increase in the penetration of smartphones in a great number of households with a student. In fact, almost 80% of classes are being run through the usage of computer and mobile devices. These phones provide the student the much needed bridge to communicate with their teachers and peers in an effective and efficient way. With this positive side there is a big negative side of its compulsive usage. It has the potential to disrupt some of our valuable study habits which we nurtured from the very first day of school. The abrupt shift of technology and disruption of classical settings for providing education has raised some questions for all the stakeholders of education-teachers, students, parents etc.

The 3 key potential disruptions posed by compulsive/ habitual usage of mobile were by social media. Its unabated usage is innately a problem. They simply lure us by sending out notifications numerous times in a day, which works like a cue to click it and reinforce its use practically makes us habitual users after a certain time. The like button, dislike button, the comment button, the reply to comment button, the tag button, the stalker button all keep us hooked on and on, sometimes for good other times even we are unable to find why we are scrolling and scrolling again.

Similarly, mobile phone gaming is another one. A decade ago mobile phones were installed with simple games, the levels of which can be played within a few weeks. Once we completed all the levels it feels dull to replay it again and again. That spared us time to do other tasks physically like bathing in a nearby canal or cricket or something else. But today the gaming industry is power packed with all the resources and smart brains to keep people hooked to it. They provided instant updates to add a level/challenge, that makes it

unending games and us infinite warriors who day in and day out keep us engaged. The personalized gaming characters and the audio visual stimuli and connection with our friends stalks us to leave the game and do something productive.

Yet another aspect is that of the video streaming and OTT Platforms. These platforms use flashy thumbnails to keep us stacked to the screen and make it work as a habit triggering cues. These cues dislodge our natural and other productive habit cues due to which we feel in an endless loop of going down and down to find the video which will satisfy our brain, wasting our precious time to use it on other productive things.

In the end, it can be said that these platforms are now reality and are very much part of our social fabric. They have the potential to transform our personal and social life. They had immense potential to provide education in an interesting way, if used judiciously. They are here to remain and it's us who need to rethink our strategy and habits while interacting with these platforms. We have to limit its potential abuse and must cultivate the habit to keep ourselves engaged in productive work. We have to talk to our children about its benefits and about its ill effects. We need to actively engage with our children and let them use these devices only for a certain time period. We must not let them cultivate any bad habits that these mobile devices facilitate.

But as the Kashmiri proverb
Maraz galih Vedh-wan Adat Katih galih?
It is indeed difficult to rewire our hard acquired habits

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You do not have to be white to be a white feminist," Rafia Zakaria writes in the author's note to her latest collection of essays, *Against White Feminism: Notes on Disruption*. It is also possible, she further argues, to be white and feminist and still "not be a white feminist." The term, then, seems to be one that Zakaria attaches to a specific definition. Rather than "describing the racial identity of its subjects", according to her, white feminism is instead "a set of assumptions and behaviors" that are intertwined with mainstream western feminism. However, she adds, it is also true that "most white feminists are indeed white, and that whiteness itself is at the core of white feminism." In Zakaria's opinion, a refusal to recognize white privilege is fundamental to the definition of a white feminist.

Against White Feminism critiques the "whiteness" within certain feminist activism and what it has done to the movement. In the first chapter, Zakaria argues that Black and Brown women's contributions to feminism are often ignored. For instance, she points out how gender studies courses teach predominantly the work of white feminists, and even if Black or Brown or Muslim feminists are included in the curriculum, they are "offered as a condiment, the entrée being the white feminist texts". Where are the gender studies courses that predominantly teach the works of Black or Brown or Muslim feminists, she asks.

In her book, *Novel Gazing: Queer Readings in Fiction*, Eve Kosofsky writes about "paranoid reading"—how certain kinds of readers experience fiction by anticipating bad things, thus focusing their reading on eliminating "bad surprises." While Zakaria's book is not fiction, I experienced a sense of paranoia while reading it the first time—sometimes, anticipating the book to lead me somewhere wrong. Perhaps, a part of my paranoia was my own participation in what Zakaria would argue is an aspect of white feminism, when a feminist of color is often read with doubt and refused entry

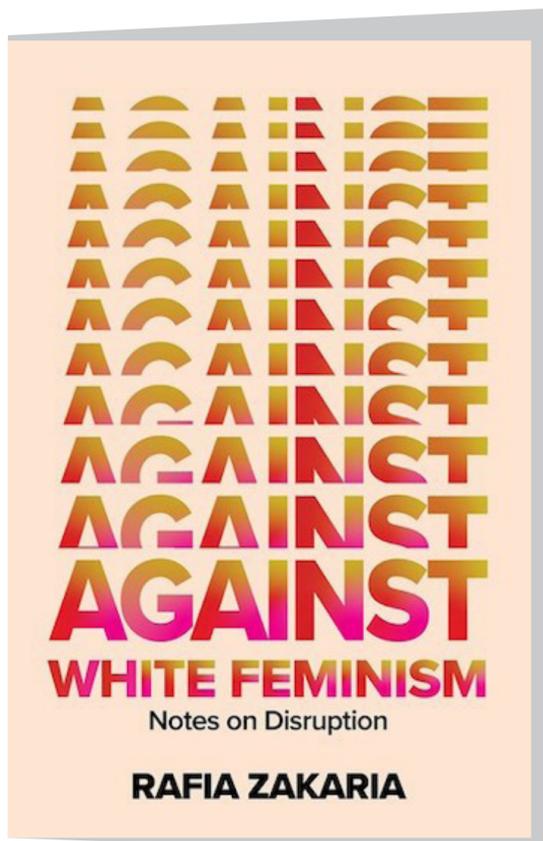
into the epistemology of feminism.

It would appear that Zakaria anticipated this kind of suspicion to be projected by her readers. The concluding chapter, for instance, is filled with caveats for both white women and women of color. She argues that, for a transformative form of feminism to work, it is crucial for feminists to work out solidarities across identities and "specialized groups." Zakaria repeatedly reminds the reader that the book does not call for an "elimination of white women," but instead urges the elimination of "whiteness" from feminism.

Zakaria's own experience includes on-the-ground crisis-based legal assistance to Black and Brown immigrant women in domestic violence shelters, involving issues related to immigration and child custody. Her book thus produces a narration that marries scholarship with conversation, critiquing the various forms of inequities within the feminist movement propped up by western, white feminism. Her experience with the law and its violence informs the book. For instance, in chapter seven—"I built a white feminist temple"—she discusses what she describes as "culturally coded crimes." She argues that it is not that culturally coded crimes like "honor killing" are not violent crimes, but the fact that there is such a ready attachment of a cultural dimension to such crimes in order to signal that they are more brutal than similar crimes occurring among white communities is something that must be recognized as a problem. For instance, she points to the different standards applied to intimate partner violence between white couples and Brown or Black couples. The latter, she argues, becomes

Intersectional Solidarity in "Against White Feminism"

BARATHI NAKKEERAN



a reflection of the community and its culture, and the former is seen as an individualistic crime both by the law and the people.

Gender justice requires parity among women of color and white women. A trickle-down version of feminism, Zakaria argues, will not account for the differences that exist across groups. However, that recognition alone will not do. Material realities necessitate a redistribution of resources, such as government welfare programs, legal assistance for women of color, and so on. Solidarities must be built on transparent conversations that do not shy away from disagreement and discussion. In *Against White Feminism*, Zakaria warns that any feminism that expects universal agreements is a branding exercise and will ultimately elude accountability, forsaking potential transformation for the sake of agreement.

Chicago Review of Books

“Solidarities must be built on transparent conversations that do not shy away from disagreement and discussion. In *Against White Feminism*, Zakaria warns that any feminism that expects universal agreements is a branding exercise and will ultimately elude accountability, forsaking potential transformation for the sake of agreement

Facebook enters loan business to tap Indian SMEs

Agencies

BENGALURU: Facebook on Friday launched its lending initiative for nearly 30 million small businesses which have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp, by offering them small-ticket loans in the size of Rs 5-50 lakhs in collaboration with Indifi, a lending platform.

Indifi is a series C funded debt financing platform, backed by Omidyar Networks, Accel Partners and Elevar Equity which has disbursed more than 20,000 loans and has 20 lenders on board. The social media giant has been eyeing the Medium and Small Enterprises (MSME) market in India for quite some time now. India is the first

the partner lenders. In days to come, Facebook plans to partner with Non-Banking Financial Corporations (NBFCs) and other lenders to help expand the initiative. Facebook has rolled out the programme in 100 cities and will soon expand the initiative to 100 more cities across India.

Mohan told TNIE that endeavour will be to help those businesses scale who typically find it difficult to access credit through the conventional lending channels. "Facebook's role will be to assess business in terms of its activity, behaviour on various platforms which includes advertising as well as selling online," he added.

"The integration of business through Facebook, Whatsapp



market, where the company has launched a lending programme for small businesses.

The loans will have a pre-defined interest rate of 7-20% per annum and will be disbursed within five days.

Facebook's Managing Director (India) Ajit Mohan said that the internet firm doesn't plan to monetise through its fresh initiative and the procedures/ eligibility of loan disbursement will be decided by

and Instagram platforms, announcements of data sharing on business groups recently signal a change in monetisation strategy of the company, beyond social networking," a top industry insider said. For the cash crippled SME industry, which has already borne the brunt of Covid and slowed consumption, digital sales offer a new avenue accelerated by changed shopping behaviour during the pandemic.

Handicrafts dept fixes MSP for hand spun, hand woven Pashmina

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: In a significant step towards promotion of Handicrafts, the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom,

from various organizations associated with Handicrafts and Handloom sector including Kashmir Pashmina Karighar Union, Yender Society, Numani Welfare Trust, and Traders Association.

purposes of benefit sharing. They have to be identified for the purposes of locus-standi in case of any imitation of their craft. Sale and purchase of counterfeit products shall also be kept under check



Kashmir has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for GI certified Pashmina shawls.

The decision was taken considering the importance for promotion of GI for hand spun and hand woven Pashmina. GI has acquired importance due to assured quality and authenticity and has thus become a valuable commercial asset.

Till date, 7 crafts including Pashmina, Sozni, Kani, Paper-machié, Walnut Wood Carving, Khatamband and Carpet have been registered under Geographical Indication of Goods Act-1999.

The MSP of Pashmina was determined after three consecutive meetings that were held at Indian Institute of Carpet Technology between the representatives

After discussions and considering various types of expenditures incurred during different stages of manufacturing, the committee unanimously proposed Minimum Support Price of Rs. 12,000 for GI Certified Plain Pashmina hand spun and hand woven Shawl.

Further, MSP for knotted Carpets which is under the process shall be announced shortly.

Among the various benefits of adopting Minimum Support Price policy, it will help in reviving hand spinning and hand weaving and will help grass root level artisans who work hard to promote these crafts by virtue of which Kashmir is famous.

The craftsmen are the focal point of the GI Act, 1999 for the

prior to implementation of MSP.

As an initiative to promote women entrepreneurship, it shall also help in revival of hand-spun and hand-woven products to generate employability and up-scale the economic prospectus of women weavers. The stakeholders expressed their satisfaction over the constitution of the committee and demanded appropriate marketing platforms to ensure economic up scaling. The participants included Mohammad Abbas, Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Bashir Ahmad, Manager, Handloom and Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation Ltd. and all the representatives of Tahafuz. Meanwhile, it has been impressed upon all Govt. agencies to effect purchases of Pashmina on the MSP notified by the Government.

Intel unveils its biggest shift in chip architecture in a generation

Agencies

New Delhi: Chip-maker Intel has unveiled its biggest architectural shifts in a generation for CPUs, GPUs and IPUs to meet the crushing demand for more compute performance. At its 'Architecture Day 2021', Intel set the stage for new generations of leadership products. During the event, Intel architects provided details

Computing Systems and Graphics Group at Intel.

"These architectural breakthroughs set the stage for our next era of leadership products, starting soon with Alder Lake," he added.

Koduri said that the highly scalable x86 microarchitecture addresses compute requirements across the entire spectrum of customer's needs, from



on two new x86 central processing unit architectures – first performance hybrid architecture and Intel Thread Director; Intel's next-generation data center processors; infrastructure processing unit architectures; and upcoming graphics architectures.

"Today, we unveiled our biggest shifts in Intel architectures in a generation. This includes the first in-depth look at Alder Lake, our first performance hybrid architecture with two new generations of x86 cores and the intelligent Intel Thread Director workload scheduler; Sapphire Rapids, Intel's new standard-setting data center architecture," said Raja Koduri, SVP, General Manager, Accelerated

low-power mobile applications to many-core microservices.

"Compared with Skylake, Intel's most prolific CPU microarchitecture, the Efficient-core delivers 40 per cent more single-threaded performance at the same power, or the same performance while consuming less than 40 per cent of the power," he informed.

Looking ahead, the world faces a massive demand for compute – potentially a 1,000x need by 2025.

"We face daunting compute challenges that can only be solved through revolutionary architectures and platforms... Our talented architects and engineers made possible all this technology magic," said Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger.

Iqbal takes on-field assessment of various Agricultural activities across Srinagar

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: To take on field assessment of different Agricultural activities during the ongoing season, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal visited differ-

ent areas of Srinagar district.

He said we are chasing the target of doubling the farmer's income by the year 2022 and are taking all possible steps and interventions to realize this dream.

During the interaction with

cultivation which in the long run will prove to be a game changer in enhancing the socio economic status of the area.

Chief Agriculture officer Srinagar, Mohammad Younis Chowdhary on the occasion said that Srinagar district is achieving new



ent areas of Srinagar district.

During the visit, the Director inspected various vegetable fields, maize fields of the farmers and Paddy Seed Villages laid by the department. He said that a special approach must be adopted while implementing different schemes for the benefit of the farming community.

The Director stressed the officers and field functionaries to work in a more professional and coordinated manner. He impressed upon them to work with added dedication to reach out to the farmers and address their issues so that their interests could

the representatives of Pan-chayati Raj Institutions and Farmers of Fakir Gujri, Director assured them that the department is in a process to reach out these far flung areas with latest technological interventions and schemes.

He urged upon them to keep close coordination with the field staff of the department to avail farmer's friendly schemes.

On spot instructions were passed to Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar to organize special training programs regarding lavender cultivation, as this area is having a huge potential for its

strides in vegetable production and is working to provide better marketing avenues to the farmers. He further added that an FPO has been already established at Danihama for tomato crops in the district. This FPO has already been approved by the District Monitoring Committee (DMC) and the case has been submitted with NABARD.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar Chowdhary Mohammad Younis, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Srinagar and other senior officers and officials of the district.

Apple world's most valuable company at \$2.4 trillion

Agencies

Hyderabad: Apple emerged as the world's most valuable company, up 15 per cent to \$2.4 trillion (tn) as of 15 July 2021. The 'World's Big Four' comprising Apple, Microsoft, Amazon and Alphabet created a value of \$4tn, driven by the growth in cloud services amid a maturing of the digital economy, as per the second edition of the Hurun Global 500 list.

Facebook and Tencent added \$700bn, semiconductor gi-

these 500 companies had combined sales of \$18.4tn, bigger than the GDP of China, and employed 43 million staff, equivalent to the working population of Germany."

"This year the Hurun Global 500 added \$8.5tn of value, on the back of a maturing of the digital economy and new technologies, especially in health-care post Covid, but also helped by trillion-dollar economic stimulus packages, which have helped drive up stock markets to records heights, particularly



ants Nvidia and TSMC added \$600bn, whilst Tesla led the EV sector, adding \$500bn of value. Between them, these 10 companies added \$6tn of value, one third of the \$18tn total value created in the almost two years since the pandemic began.

India has 12 companies in the second edition of the list, up one, led by Reliance Industries with \$188bn, up 11 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services with \$164bn, followed by HDFC Bank with \$113bn.

The Hurun Research Institute released the 2021 Hurun Global 500, a list of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world, ranked according to their value, defined as market capitalisation for listed companies and valuations for non-listed companies. The cut-off date used is 15 July 2021.

Rupert Hoogewerf, chairman and chief researcher of Hurun Report, said, "It is easy to see why the Hurun G500 represents the most powerful group of companies in the world. With a total value of \$58tn, they make up the backbone of the world's economy. Together

in the US," he added. The rumbling US-China trade war has spilled over into an acceleration of a decoupling of the economies, fuelling competition for high-tech sectors such as semiconductors. The global shortage of chips, which are now required in everything from smartphones to cars, has sparked competition in their design and production.

About 80 per cent of the world's most successful startups, unicorns valued at over \$1bn, are from the US and China, suggesting that these two economies have the lion's share of the next wave of potential Global 500 companies.

Only three individuals in history have created more than one Hurun Global 500 company. Elon Musk is co-founder of three, led by Tesla in the Top 10, PayPal and SpaceX. The other two are from China. Jack Ma, despite his recent troubles, has two with Alibaba and Ant Group. The other is Shanghai-based Li Ge with biotech companies WuXi Biologics and WuXi AppTec, both of which have almost doubled in value in the past year.

India cuts soyoil, sunflower oil import tax



India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer and spends an average of \$8.5-\$10 billion annually on edible oil imports.

India has cut import taxes on crude and refined soyoil and sunflower oil by 7.5%, according to a government order, as part of efforts to keep a lid on prices.

India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer and spends an average of \$8.5-\$10 billion annually on edible oil imports.

The country produces less than half of the roughly 24 million tonnes of edible oil that it consumes annually. It imports the rest, buying palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, soyoil from Brazil and Argentina, and sunflower oil, mainly from Russia and Ukraine.

Cabinet approves National Mission on Edible Oils to boost palm oil production

The Union Cabinet, on August 18, approved the Rs 11,040 crore National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm to boost palm oil production in India and reduce dependence on expensive imports from South East Asia.

"Centre will come up with a mechanism to fix and regulate palm oil prices, if the market is volatile, the difference will also be paid by the centre through direct benefit transfer," said Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at the post-cabinet media briefing on August 18. The outlay will be for a five-year period.

"Due to the heavy dependence on imports for edible oils, it is important to make efforts for increasing the domestic production of edible oils in which increasing area and productivity of oil palm plays an important part," said an

official press release.

"A financial outlay of Rs 11,040 crore has been made for the scheme, out of which Rs 8,844 crore is the central share and Rs 2,196 crore is the share of states and this includes a viability gap funding component," it said.

The aim of the centrally sponsored scheme is to raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and to 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.

This will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30. The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India's north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to the conducive weather conditions in the regions.

The proposed scheme will subsume the current National Food



Security Mission-Oil Palm programme. 28 lakh hectares can be potentially cultivated.

The centre said that as per an assessment by the Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), some 28 lakh hectares of land across the country can be used for palm oil cultivation. At present only 3.70 lakh hectares is under oil palm cultivation.

Tomar said that the centre will give a price assurance to oil palm farmers. This will be known as the viability price and will protect the farmers from the fluctuations of the international market. The viability price shall be the annual average price of the last 5 years adjusted with the wholesale price index to be multiplied by 14.3 per cent.

"This will be fixed yearly for the oil palm year from 1st November to 31st October. A for-

mula price will also be fixed which will be 14.3 percent of crude palm oil price and will be fixed on a monthly basis," it said.

"The government by assuring a transparent price mechanism based on last 5 years average has made sure that the farmer remains unaffected by price volatility. Since it is a long gestation crop, initial improved support to the farmers will also encourage quicker adoption and sustainability of this crop," said Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet Limited.

Govt assures protection against price volatility

The viability gap funding will be difference between the viability price and formula price and if the need arises, it would be paid directly to the farmers accounts in the form of DBT. The industry will be mandated

to pay 14.3 percent of the crude palm oil price which will eventually go up to 15.3 percent. The sunset clause of the scheme is 1st November 2037.

"To give impetus to the North-East and Andaman, the centre will additional bear a cost of 2 percent of the CPO price to ensure that the farmers are paid at par with the rest of India. The states who adopt the mechanism would benefit from the viability gap payment proposed in the scheme and for this they will enter into MoUs with the centre," the statement said.

To address the issue of shortage of planting material in the country, seed gardens will be provided assistance up to Rs 80 lakh for 15 hectares in rest of India and Rs 100 lakh for 15 ha in North-East and Andaman regions.

Heavy Rains Cause Massive Waterlogging In Delhi, Cripple Traffic

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Record rains lashed the national capital on Saturday, crippling the traffic movement and causing heavy waterlogging in many parts of the city, with places like Minto Bridge, Rajghat, Connaught Place, and ITO being inundated.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Delhi recorded 138.8 mm of rainfall, the highest one-day rain for August in last 14 years.

According to IMD officials, Saturday's rainfall of 138.8 mm is the ninth highest in the last 62 years for August and highest after 2007, in the last 14 years (2007-2021) for August.

Meteorological (MeT) officials said that highest ever rainfall for August since 1961 till 2021 is 184.0 mm. It was recorded on August 2, 1961.

The weather office has issued an 'orange' alert, a warning for extremely bad weather with the

potential of disruption in commute with road and drain closures and interruption of power supply, for the city.

According to Delhi Police officials, a 60-year-old guard died on Saturday due to electric shock in east Delhi's Anand Vihar area allegedly due to waterlogging.

Public Works Department (PWD) officials said 316 complaints of waterlogging were received at the control room till 4.30 pm on Saturday. The officials said that the field staff was on the ground to address waterlogging complaints on priority basis.

Waterlogging also damaged medicines at a state-run hospital in Rohini as the rain water entered pharmacy of the hospital, an official said.

According to data from the three civic bodies, at least 14 incidences of tree fall were reported in the city.

Commuters had a harrowing experience travelling from

one place to another as vehicles crawled on important stretches. People were also seen wading through waterlogged streets in different areas of the national capital.

Stretches that witnessed jams include ITO, Dhaura Kuan, Mehram Nagar underpass near the airport, Vikas Marg, Mathura Road, Ring Road, Mukarba Chowk, Rohtak Road near Peeragarhi, Connaught Place, Barakhamba Road, Dwarka-Palam flyover and Bhairon Marg.

Narrating his tale of traffic woe, a commuter, Vikas Tyagi, said that it took him over four hours to reach Burari from Hapur due to extensive waterlogging on the city streets.

"It is a nightmare to get stuck in a traffic jam. Today's (Saturday) rains literally crippled the traffic movement in the city as almost every street was clogged. Even the tributary roads of key stretches were jammed. Usually, it is two hours

drive between Hapur and Burari but today I reached home in four hours," Tyagi lamented.

Due to the waterlogging, the Delhi Traffic Police in the morning closed several crucial underpasses and traffic moved at a snail's pace at many stretches. The traffic police took to Twitter to inform commuters about road closures.

"Traffic movement on Minto Bridge (both carriageways) has been closed due to waterlogging. Please avoid (the) stretch," the traffic police said in a tweet.

Hours later, it informed people that normal traffic movement had been restored at the Minto Bridge underpass.

Last month, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that a "world-class drainage system" would be developed across the national capital.

He had said drainage systems like the one at Minto Road would be replicated across Delhi and drains and sewers would be

de-silted regularly.

A senior PWD official said that the main reason behind the flooding of the Minto Road underpass was overflow of a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) sewer line along with a "very high intensity" rain.

"Very high intensity and record rains occurred on Saturday, which triggered overflow of a DJB sewer line near DDU Marg. This resulted waterlogging in the Minto Road underpass. We have all the system in place so traffic was stopped immediately and water was pumped out," the official said.

He added that the underpass was opened for traffic in three hours.

On Saturday, the traffic police said that underpasses at Azad Market in central Delhi and Azadpur in north Delhi had been closed for traffic, while vehicular movement was affected at Moolchand and Pul Prahladpur underpasses in south Delhi due to waterlogging.

ZyCov-D Vaccine Will Hit Markets Soon: Union Health Minister

Press Trust of India

Ahmedabad: The ZyCov-D vaccine against COVID-19, which was granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) by the drug regulator, will hit the market soon as the drug firm has started its production, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on the last day of his "Jan Ashirwa Yatra" in Gujarat.

Mandaviya visited many temples starting by seeking the blessings of Lord Swaminarayan at a temple at Gadhadra in the Botad district earlier on Saturday.

Talking to reporters in Botad about the Emergency Use Authorisation granted to ZyCov-D COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Zydus Cadila, Mandaviya said it is the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine for COVID-19 which will be administered in three shots.

"Those above the age of 12 can take the vaccine shot", he said. Mandaviya also said the

company has already started production of the vaccine which will soon hit the market.

The company's indigenously developed needle-free three-dose COVID-19 vaccine ZyCov-D was granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) by the drug regulator on Friday, making it the first vaccine to be administered to beneficiaries in the age group of 12-18 years in the country.

Besides Mandaviya, whose tour concluded in his hometown Bhavnagar, the last stop for the yatra of his cabinet colleague from Gujarat, Parshottam Rupala, was the latter's hometown Amreli. Their yatra covered various districts in the Saurashtra region.

Mandaviya and Rupala, who heads the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Fisheries in the Union cabinet, embarked on the Yatra on Thursday to reach out to people and seek their blessings for their induction in the Union cabinet.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Gunfight In Tral

there was no collateral damage in the operation.

"It was a very difficult operation and concluded without any collateral damage. We cordoned off the target area, offered them surrender, but they fired and were killed in retaliation," he said.

The IGP said the militants used to exploit the families of the Gujjar community where they were hiding.

In a stern message to the militants, he said there was no hiding place for them.

"I want to tell the terrorists and their families that do not think that you will hide in the mountains after killing civilians and no one will do anything. Our force is professional and we will track you there also and neutralise you like we have been," Kumar said.

Major Gen Ball said the militants were operating in the area for a long time.

"A solid message from us has gone out through this operation that there is no place for them, not even in the forests. We will get information about them and we will neutralise them. We will continue eliminating them by launching suitable operations whenever there is any information," he said.

The GoC said two AK 47 rifles, an SLR, a UBGL and a huge amount of ammunition were recovered from the encounter site.

Asked if there were inputs on the presence of more RPGs in the valley after it was recovered from the site of an encounter in Kulgam on August 13 where Pakistani militant Usman was killed, IGP Kumar said the Govt forces have no information about the presence of such a weapon in the hinterland.

We have activated our intelligence and will neutralise any such threat if there is. The forces are ready and the counter-insurgency grid has been made stronger, and if there is any such threat we will neutralise that timely, he added.

Replying to another question, Kumar said so far, only one foreign militant was killed this year who had recently infiltrated.

"The foreign terrorist killed in Bandipora was a recent infiltration, all the others were either six months ago or one-and-a-half years ago," he said.

Eye On Taliban

leaders under detention. Since then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tried to reach out and hold talks with Kashmir's political leaders earlier this year.

"We need to understand that the victory in Afghanistan is being seen (by terror groups) as a Pakistani victory and an Indian defeat.... We have to organise ourselves for a renewed offensive by elements like the JeM," said Gen Roychowdhury, a veteran of the 1965 and 1971 wars besides counter-insurgency operations within the country.

"We have to be prepared for Pakistani intentions (covert operations) supported by radical elements here," he added.

During the period Taliban rode to power in the mid-1990s, India steadfastly refused to do business with the regime which it saw as brutal proxy for Pakistan's military. It continued to support the remnants of the Afghan government and later the Northern Alliance, aiding them with training and supplies.

The 1999 hijacking of Indian airlines' jetliner to Kabul by four Pakistani militants, was made possible with the cooperation of the Taliban regime. India exchanged three top militants, who included Maulana Masood Azhar, founder of JeM, for passengers and crew of that aircraft.

A study by French think-tank Centre d'analyse du terrorisme (Centre for Analysis of Terrorism) published last week warned of the renewed possibility of "more operational coordination between Pakistan-supported groups like the Lashkar e Toiba and JeM (on the one hand) and the Taliban."

The former Army chief said, "We should try and help the son of Ahmad Shah Masood (guerrilla leader nicknamed Lion of Panjshir). The non-Pashtun minorities such as Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras have had good relations with us.... Taliban too has many factions and it should not be difficult to reach out to them."

General Roychowdhury also said India's role in Afghanistan needs to be to give training, relief materials and above all refuge to those who needed it. "People of Afghanistan remain our friends and we must be willing to give them refuge," he said.

However, at the same time, there is need

to beef up security and create "fortress India" to safeguard against any militant operations against India.

The former Army chief said talk of sending Indian troops to beef up US and allied troops in holding Afghanistan which had cropped up in the last two decades "was unwise as we (Indian Army) had no means to reinforce or supply them except by air and that route was fraught with grave danger."

He also warned that while Prime Minister Modi and Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina were on good terms, opposition forces in Bangladesh which included "the entire radical set-up" would be re-invigorated by the Taliban victory and "may not let this chance slip by."

There has been disquiet in India's security community about the possibility of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, Bangladesh drawing upon released Bangladeshi Taliban fighters and increasing their activities in that country and in bordering Indian states.

The retired general also said, "We need to reach out to like-minded people in this sub-continent to oppose the spread of the ideology associated with the Taliban."

Will Handle Taliban

harmed by such elements.

If there is a major incident, the locals will be the first to suffer, tourists will fear coming here, so whose economy will it impact? It is the local economy. So, I request the people to share with police or security forces any such information, he added.

Asked about attacks on political workers, Kumar said they were a soft target for militants. Political workers have been continuously targeted as they are soft targets like policemen when they visit their homes or journalists who speak the truth. It has happened before as well, he said.

The IGP said while the police were providing security to maximum such persons, it is not possible to provide security to all.

However, if anyone has a threat perception or lives in a vulnerable area, then he will be provided with security after assessment, Kumar said.

He said the police have got a lead in the recent killing of Apni Party leader Ghulam Rasool Lone in Kulgam district.

We have got leads and very soon we will either arrest them or neutralise them, in an encounter, he added.

Lone was shot dead by militants in the Devsar area of Kulgam on Thursday.

Taliban Attacked

is everything that matters to them. "He is in quarantine and will come back home after 20 days for holidays," she said.

Ravi was discharging duties in Afghanistan for 2 years.

Meanwhile, the family of Tanveen, a resident of Sandur in Bellary, staying in Afghanistan with Afghan husband Syed Jalal has been rescued successfully and they are returning safely from Afghanistan.

Abdul Sattar, father of Tanveen said that the Indian embassy has confirmed their return. Tanveen met Syed Jalal while studying engineering and got married in 2018. They are reaching New Delhi on Saturday or Sunday.

Teressa Crasta, a nun from Mangaluru has sent a voice message to her colleagues that she is safely returning from Afghanistan. Teressa had gone to Afghanistan through an Italian NGO and she was in charge of an institute for mentally challenged children.

She has told colleagues in the Sister of Charity Institute that an Italian NGO has made arrangements for her departure from Afghanistan. As of now her journey to India has been postponed as there is chaos at Kabul airport and entry is restricted.

She has also said in the audio that she has already registered with the Indian Embassy and they are arranging for her safe return. (Agencies)

J&K Reports

Covid-19. Five districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Ramban and Reasi reported no new case of coronavirus.

Also, the officials said that 126 more Covid-19 patients have recovered—43 from Jammu Division and 83 from the Valley.

Meanwhile, no coronavirus related death was reported from J&K on Saturday. So far 4401 people—2161 in Jammu and 2240 in Kashmir—have succumbed to the virus.

Govt Okays

lease on behalf of the government.

Pertinently, the order by revenue department comes two weeks after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation of office-cum 'Yatri Nivas' here on August 6. During the event, the LG had stated that a similar facility for pilgrims to accommodate 3200 yatris was also coming up at Chanderkote in Ramban district.

According to an official spokesperson, the upcoming SAsB office-cum-Yatri Nivas in Srinagar will be completed in a period of 18 months and will be able to accommodate over 3000 pilgrims.

Mehbooba Mufti

government to mend its ways, understand the situation, and see what is happening in your neighbourhood."

"America, a superpower, had to pack their bags and flee. You (the Centre) still have the opportunity to start a dialogue process in J&K like (former PM) Vajpayee had and mend your mistake of snatching the J&K's identity illegally and unconstitutionally and splitting of J&K, otherwise it will be too late, she said, referring to the decisions of August 5, 2019.

Addressing her party workers in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, Mehbooba also appealed to the youth not to pick up arms, saying the issue cannot be resolved with guns or stones.

The Government of India should return what it has snatched from us and address the Kashmir issue according to the wishes and aspirations of the people of J&K, she said.

Citing the example of Afghanistan, the PDP president said the issues cannot be resolved by guns or stones.

The Taliban are now controlling Afghanistan and they made the US to flee. But, right now, they are saying the gun will not do. The whole world is watching them, how they will behave, whether they will do the same strictness or behave well with the people, she said.

Mehbooba said there was a lesson for the people of J&K in the situation in Afghanistan.

I request the youth to resist by staying alive and do not lose your lives. When you lose your lives, everything is over. The people at the other end do not understand that the youth of Kashmir should not sacrifice their lives. They are not bothered. So, I appeal to all the youngsters not to pick up guns or stones. If you cannot speak with your tongue, then remember the wounds in your heart, she said.

She said America talked to the Taliban and the previous governments in New Delhi, including the BJP government led by A B Vajpayee, also talked to militants in J&K and a time will come when they will bend on their knees and ask us what we want.

The US talked to the Taliban, India talked to Pakistan and a ceasefire happened. There is no other option but to talk. Whatever is happening behind the doors, God willing, a day will come and they will have to talk to everyone be it the people of J&K or the people across as Kashmir issue is alive, she said.

Saying that India is an idea of various religions, diversities and ethnicities, Mehbooba said the Congress party saved the country and kept it together and accused the BJP of trying to divide it.

What has been happening since the last five-seven years, it seems the BJP is trying to split this country and divide the people in the name of religion, she said.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's accession with the Union of India, the PDP president said had the BJP been in power then, J&K might not have joined the country.

"The accession did not take place because of the BJP. It happened when Jawaharlal Nehru was in power, who was secular and democratic and who believed in brotherhood. He assured the people of J&K, which was a Muslim majority, of a special status to accede to a Hindu majority India.

The Congress had joined J&K with India on these conditions. Had the BJP been there, then I do not think J&K would have been a part of this country, she said.

On the criticism that she did not talk about Article 370 at a virtual meet of 19 opposition parties called by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, Mehbooba said she talked about the issue and noted that it was the duty of the Congress to safeguard the people of J&K and see their situation and understand difficulties.

BJP, Congress Fumes

president Ravinder Raina lashed out at Mehbooba for her remarks, and said she "is under some misconception. India is a powerful country and our Prime Minister is Narendra Modi unlike (US president) Joe Biden who withdrew from Afghanistan. Whether it is the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, LeT, JeM, or Hizbul anyone who conspires against India will be destroyed."

The PDP president has committed a great sin against the country. People of Jammu and Kashmir are patriots who love their nation and are keeping the national flag flying high. They are helping the police, Army and paramilitary forces in combating terrorism, he said.

He further claimed that Mufti has lost ground in Jammu and Kashmir and the people have rejected her.

Now, she is remembering the Taliban which has destroyed Afghanistan, killed innocent women and children, and trampling on the rights of people, including journalists and sportspersons, Raina said.

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill also condemned her remarks.

"Mehbooba Mufti quoted speech is highly condemnable & provocative. Rather than preaching peace, exproving Govt on policy issues if your politics requires you to threaten the establishment with violent consequences then clearly you are steering to wrong path-Sad & Shameful," Shergill said.

NC, PC Spat

not persuade the opposition parties about the demands put forward in the Gupkar Declaration? he asked.

The Centre had abrogated the J&K's special status under Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

The JKPC spokesperson said constructive ambiguity was a better option than criminal unambiguity expressed through silence of the 19 opposition parties.

The fact of the matter is that the easiest way to restore Articles 370 and 35A is through Parliament. The court process is time-consuming. The BJP has, in past, made it clear that they will never restore the special status of J&K. The stance taken by opposition parties after the meeting makes it clear that they will not restore J&K's special status in Parliament, he said in a statement.

Asserting that both the PDP and the NC have endorsed the stand of the opposition parties through their participation at the meeting, Mir alleged that Abdullah and Mehbooba have nailed the coffin of the special status of J&K.

It seems NC and PDP are over enthusiastic to jump into the frame and be seen courting the national opposition. But at what cost? To find a seat on the high table, Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah have traded off their demand for restoration of peoples' rights and most importantly betrayed the commitments made to people of J&K.

If these 19 opposition parties will not support the demand of the people of J&K, then what is the fun of attending such a meeting? Mir asked.

He said both the NC and the PDP will have to explain that if both the spectrums of Indian polity -- the ruling party and the opposition parties -- are against the restoration of special status then who will restore it in Parliament.

The current ruling dispensation is not exactly known for its tolerance. On one hand, Mufti-Abdullah breaks bread with an opposition group that does not have the exigencies of being in power.

"Yet they refuse to endorse the stand of people of J&K. If this is the stance of these parties out of power surely they will be more hardline when they are in power, he said.

Mir said JKPC has always maintained that there is a national consensus on Article 370 between the Left, Right and the centrist parties.

Earlier, JKPC chairman Sajad Lone, in a series of tweets, said the leaders from J&K should either get the national opposition endorse the demand for the restoration of Article 370 so that there is some hope in the future or just keep out of the united platform.

No mention of Article 370 in opposition parties' meet. In wonderment how can J and K leaders justify their presence in the meeting if they could not convince the leaders to talk about 370. BJP's anti-370 stance is clear. What is the national opposition stance, Lone said on Twitter.

Lone asked why the leaders from J&K were becoming a part of a process which endorses

don't talk about Article 370 discourse.

Wow so (yo)u become a part of a national opposition which abandons 370 and (yo)u irk and irritate a ruling party, not known for tolerance and hence put even statehood at risk.

For heaven's sake. Let us at least resolve that if we can't facilitate we will not impede either. Leaders from J and K should either get the national opposition endorse demand for 370 so that at the national level there is some hope at a future date or just keep out of it, he said.

Hitting back, the NC denounced the jibes of Lone on the opposition parties meeting as "unfounded and out of sync with reality".

In a joint statement, party's leaders including Choudhary Muhammad Ramzaan, Mir Saifullah, Qaiser Jamshed Lone, Kafaeur Rehman, Shaqaf Watali said the rants against Dr Farooq Abdullah were coming from a person who is "hopelessly inconsistent" in his views.

"Known for changing narratives, his only permanent character is that of a pendulum which keeps on swinging from one extreme to another. From joining PAGD to leaving it, he has only damaged the cause of restoration of Art 370 and 35 A," a NC spokesperson said.

He further said that the NC and likeminded parties and individuals do not need Lone's "certificate" on their commitment to fight for restoration of Art 370.

"In fact he needs to come clear on his deserting of the cause and subsequent unabashed lapping up with the RSS in Pahalgaon recently," the leaders said, as per party spokesperson.

The NC spokesperson further said that the leaders reiterated party's stand on the restoration of abridged democratic and constitutional rights of people of J&K

"NC never claimed a national consensus on restoration of 370/35-A. There are parties who support our stand but others who don't and we continue to engage with all of them to convince them," he said.

However, the leaders, as per the party spokesperson said, it was unacceptable to be "lectured" by a party led by an individual who left the PAGD and "abandoned" the struggle to fight against 5th Aug 2019.

"His dithering approach gives slip to his dishonesty about the cause. He has never been honest either to his supporters or the general public. His singular act of deserting the PAGD was the biggest blow to the unity that had been forged to fight for the restoration of J&K's dignity. He has been rewarded for this by being invited to the high table of RSS backed conferences in J&K," the NC leaders said, as per the spokesperson. (With PTI inputs)

LG Greets People

sister's prayers of protection and a brother's promise of the same for her," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson, adding "The festival teaches us to imbibe the feelings of brotherhood, togetherness and harmony amongst all, he added.

On the occasion, the LG prayed for greater communal harmony between different communities of the society.

Tourist Dies After

picturesque Thajwas glacier in the tourist resort of Sonmarg, reports said Saturday. The female tourist suffered serious injuries in the fall as she hit a sharp edged stone.

She was removed to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Sonmarg for treatment. However, before the doctors could treat her, she succumbed to her injuries, reports added.

Boy Drowns

Bridge Watalbagh area of Lar Ganderbal. When locals failed to retrieve the body, police called an SDRF team and after hard efforts the body of the boy was retrieved from the stream.

Pertinently, the district administration has already issued an order asking locals not to take bath or swim in the gushing Sindh stream (KNT)

5 Gamblers Held

of Shadipora, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said playing cards and an amount of Rs 4,680 was also recovered from the accused.

"They have been arrested and shifted to a police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 106/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Sumbal and further investigation has been taken up," the police spokesperson added.

Babar Azam, Fawad Alam Lift Pakistan After Horrendous Start Against West Indies



Agencies

KINGSTON: Babar Azam and Fawad Alam combined in a 158-run stand to guide Pakistan to 212-4 at stumps Friday after the West Indies took three wickets in the first four overs on Day 1 of the second cricket test.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite won the toss and elected to bowl first, a decision rewarded immediately when Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales had Pakistan reeling at three wickets down for two runs after 3.5 overs.

Roach had Abid Ali (1) caught at slip and, six balls later, had Azhar Ali (0) caught behind in a hostile opening spell.

Seales broke through when Imran Butt (1) pushed forward in defense and feathered an edge to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva. A confident appeal was rejected by the on-field umpire but a review showed a slight edge on Butt's bat and the West Indies had a third wicket.

After one of Pakistan's worst starts to a test match, captain

Azam and Alam dug in to withstand the early seam movement and post resilient half centuries.

On a hot, attritional day, both batsmen played and missed initially and had some false shots but eventually got on top of the attack.

They moved the total to 160 before Alam had to retire hurt because of cramping. He faced 149 deliveries for his unbeaten 76 before leaving the field.

Azam continued with Mohammad Rizwan, adding eight to the total, before his almost five-hour innings ended when he got a thick edge to Roach and Jason Holder took a catch low to his left at second slip in the 61st over. Azam scored 75 from 174 deliveries in a captain's knock.

Rizwan finished unbeaten on 22 and Faheem Ashraf was not out on 23.

The West Indies used seven bowlers, with Roach's 3-49 from 17 overs spearheading a weary attack before bad light stopped play.

West Indies won a tense first test by one wicket.

Parveez Rasool Seeks BCCI Intervention In Rift With JKCA Committee

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K star cricketer Parveez Rasool has sought BCCI intervention over a notice issued by J&K Cricket Association Committee Members.

The Members in the notice have accused Rasool of appropriating a pitch roller and other JKCA machinery. The notice had also threatened police action against the well-known cricketer.

"In the mail, they said, do we have enough proof to nail him down. Does that mean you have come here to nail me down? Their intention looks different," Rasool was quoted saying by The Indian Express.

Rasool's comment came in reference to an email in which JKCA Committee Member and BJP spokesperson, Brigadier (retd.) Anil Gupta had allegedly asked, "Do we have enough proof to nail him (Parveez Rasool) down?"

32-year-old Rasool further revealed to the newspaper about a now-deleted social media comment made by an unnamed JKCA official saying that he (Rasool) needed a bigger rope to hang himself.

"I have the screenshot of it. Can anyone tell me what wrong I have done that I need to be hanged? If



you have any doubts, they have my phone number, they can call me. It takes mere seconds to clarify," Rasool told The Indian Express.

Parveez Rasool, who has represented the Indian senior team twice, also said that a pitch roller is not like a tennis ball that he can keep in his pocket. He also talked at length about his love for cricket and things he has

done for its promotion in UT of J&K. "I think BCCI should intervene now. Please see my work. I'm trying to promote cricket on my part," the report quotes Rasool saying.

Parveez Rasool, Jammu-based JKCA Sub-Committee member, Anil Gupta has maintained that the notices were sent in order to maintain the Association's ledger books.

Khelo India Taekwondo Academy Open Trials On August 23

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Khelo India Centre Kashmir on Saturday announced open selection trials for boys and girls for its Taekwondo academy.

The trials are scheduled to take place on August 23 at Indoor Sports Complex, Polo View, Srinagar at 04:00 pm.

The Centre is a Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) initiative and has been extended for other sports disciplines as well.

The Centre for Taekwondo has asked the participants to bring Aadhar card, 2 passport size photographs, water bottle, mask and sanitizer with them.



"All the interested may contact Incharge, Indoor Sports Complex Pologround, Srinagar for further

details," an official statement said. "For more queries they can also contact us on +91 6005193465."

Ending Years Of Feud, AICF & Chess Association of India Announce Merger

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Putting an end to internal fighting, the All-India Chess Federation and the break-away Chess Association of India on Saturday announced that they have merged into one single entity to administer the sport in the country.

AICF president of Sanjay Kapoor said that the warring factions, not only at the national level but also in various states, have now come together under the umbrella of the federation.

"I have personally had several rounds of talks with all the stakeholders and have brought everybody on the same platform for the development of chess and all the chess players in the country," Kapoor was quoted as saying in a press release.

"Like other federations, we too are struggling to organise our annual events and championships due to the Covid pandemic and could not afford to let our internal differences derail the sport even more," he added.

AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said, "Once we formed the new body, one of our first goals was to address all the concerns of every member and



bring everybody together for the sake of the sport."

Apart from the wrangling at the national level, chess has suffered a great deal in Uttar Pradesh too, with two different bodies UP Chess Association and UP Chess Sports Association at loggerheads in the state.

"This has been a long-running feud and as I myself am from Kanpur, I believed it was my duty to resolve this problem on a priority. Today, I am happy to announce that both the groups are here," Kapoor said.

UP Chess Association president P C Chaturvedi (IAS Retd.), Sr Vice President of Chess Association of India S L Harsh, and Secretary General of Chess Association of India and Secretary, UP Chess Association SK Tewari were all present at the press conference.

Football Officials Trying To Evacuate Players From Afghanistan

Agencies

LONDON: Football officials are liaising with governments to try to evacuate players from Afghanistan after the Taliban regained control, the world players' union said Friday.

Concerns have been raised about the safety of female players who have spoken up for women's rights and against the Taliban.

"As a champion of activists, we are greatly concerned about those athletes who have, for many years, been outspoken advocates for improved human rights in the country," world players' union FIFPRO said on Twitter.

"Over the past few days, FIFPRO has been liaising with governments to establish an evacuation plan for athletes at risk. Central to this rescue effort, is the ambition to bring as many people to safety as possible."

The Afghan government fell much faster than publicly anticipated by the United States, allowing the Taliban to take back control of Kabul on Sunday after 20 years.



Multiple people were killed when hundreds of Afghan civilians desperate to leave the country swarmed a C-17 cargo plane as it was attempting to take off from Kabul airport on Monday.

The U.S. Air Force said human remains were found in the plane's wheel well after it landed at al-Udeid Air Base in the Gulf state of Qatar.

A teenage male footballer is reported to have been among the victims, according to a post by Afghanistan's sports federation on a verified Facebook page. Tributes

have been paid more widely. "FIFA has been shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Zaki Anwari, a former under-17 Afghanistan national youth team player," world soccer's governing body said in a statement.

"Our deepest condolences are with Zaki's family and loved ones." Calling the situation "unstable and very worrying," FIFA said it was in contact with the Afghanistan Football Federation and was receiving updates from players.

"We are supporting them through this difficult time," FIFA said.

Afghanistan Series: PCB Puts National Camp, Team Selection On Hold

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board has put on hold a training camp that was scheduled to start on Saturday in Lahore and also the announcement of its squad for the One-Day series against Afghanistan next month in Sri Lanka.

With Taliban taking over the reins of Afghanistan and the country facing its worst crisis in last two decades, the PCB wants a confirmation from Afghanistan Cricket Board whether the series is on and only then will they announce the squad.

The series is due to begin on

September 3 in Hambantota in Sri Lanka with the Sri Lanka board hosting the matches on behalf of the ACB.

The official said the Afghanistan cricket authorities are yet to confirm when their players will leave Kabul for Colombo and also the schedule of the matches.

"Once they give us the complete series travel plans and itinerary we will have the camp and also release our squad," he said.

The ACB is said to be in talks with the Taliban authorities and US troops which are controlling all flights in and out of Kabul airport.

One senior Afghan cricket

official said they would soon get the permission and details of how and when their players will fly out of Kabul to Colombo.

Pakistan is expected to rest senior players including captain Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and pacers, Hasan Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi for the series which is the first bilateral series between the two countries.

The four senior players are being rested to be fresh for the home series against New Zealand and England and the World T20 Cup in UAE. Afghanistan is also among the participating nations at the WCT20.

Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga Joins RCB, Simon Katich Steps Down As Head Coach

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who played a pivotal role in his team's T20 series win against a depleted Indian side, has been picked by Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which maintained its trend of picking players who do well against 'Men In Blue'.

Along with the world number two T20 bowler Hasaranga, who replaced Adam Zampa, RCB also picked Sri Lankan pacer Dushmantha Chameera who replaced Daniel Sams of Australia.

Big Bash Sensation Tim David will come in as replacement of New Zealand's Finn Allen.

The franchise also informed that their head coach Simon Katich has stepped down from his post due to "personal reasons" and Director of Cricket Mike Hesson will now double up as team's chief coach as well.

The Indian players, support staff and the team management will be assembling in Bengaluru on August 21 following which the team will undergo a seven-day quarantine.

They will also undergo COVID tests three days during the period.

The team will then depart via a chartered flight from Bangalore August 29. The other international players and staff will assemble in the UAE starting August 29 onwards. There will be another six days of quarantine in the UAE.

"We have made some changes to the squad pertaining to the situation. We have come a long way and have shown steady progress as a team," Hesson said.

"The addition of Wanindu

Hasaranga, Tim David and Dushmantha Chameera couldn't have come at a better time during the replacement window, as we aim to continue with the momentum, building on our performance from earlier this year," he added.

When asked, if Hasaranga's series winning-seven wickets in three T20 Internationals against India including best figures of 4/9, prompted RCB to select the leg-break bowler, Hesson said it's one of the reason but not the only reason.

"It's certainly not a rency factor and we certainly not surprised by his success in recent times. We like his skill-set. We like the fact that he is multi-skilled cricketer and offers to bat deep as well if we plan to play an overseas spinner along with Chahal.

"That gives us an exciting option. The fact that he performed against India is great but not surprising at all," the former Black Caps coach said about Hasaranga, who has picked 33 wickets in 24 T20I games at an economy rate of 6.56.

"We have a scouting programme that has been in place for at least last two years. We know every player is playing cricket at a decent level. We have an extensive scouting programme and Wanindu has been on our radar for a long time.

"If we needed a replacement last time, Wanindu would have been the person, we would have called upon," he explained.

The RCB media person deflected questions on star Indian players, which were not sent across to Hesson.

Amit Khatri Wins Silver In 10,000m Race Walk At World U-20 Athletics C'ships

Press Trust of India

NAIROBI: Amit Khatri won a silver in men's 10,000m race walk event to clinch India's second medal at the World U-20 Athletics Championship here on Saturday.

The 17-year-old Khatri, the national record holder and world U-20 season leader, clocked 42 minute 17.94 seconds to finish second behind Kenya's Heristone Wanyoni (42:10.84) on the fourth and penultimate day of the championships.

The mixed 4x400m relay team had won a bronze on the first day of competitions on Wednesday. Khatri was leading after the 9000m mark but the local athlete Wanyoni pulled ahead with less than two laps left in the race to win gold with a personal best time.

Paul McGrath of Spain won the bronze with a timing of 42:26.11 minutes.

The Rohtak lad ruled that he could not produce his personal best of 40:40.97 which he had recorded while winning gold during the Federation Cup Junior National Championships in January.

The high altitude conditions in the Kenyan capital had affected Khatri's performance as he struggled for breath during the race. Nairobi is at an altitude

of around 1800m from sea level.

"It is not the result I expected but I am happy with the silver medal. Even though I came here five days before the event to acclimatise, the high altitude affected me," Khatri said after his race.

"At some point in the race, I would not breathe properly but I am happy with the silver medal," he added.

It was also the youngster's first international competition. His coach Chandan Singh said Khatri's Kenyan rival had the advantage as he knows the local high altitude conditions.

"I feel Amit could have won the gold but the high altitude conditions had affected him. The Kenyan was training in those home conditions and it was advantageous to him.

"Amit was leading for most part of the race but the Kenyan took a sudden lead around one and half laps to go. Amit could not anticipate that and could not catch up him up," Chandan told PTI from Army Sports Institute in Pune.

Chandan, who has been with Khatri since 2018, said he had put his ward for high altitude training for five months last year in Nainital and Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand after it became known that Nairobi will host the World U-20 Championships.

Liverpool Beats Burnley 2-0 Before A Full House At Anfield

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool marked its first game in front of a capacity crowd at Anfield in nearly 18 months by beating Burnley 2-0 on Saturday, with goals by Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane earning their team a second straight win to open the season.

Jota, who scored the first goal in Liverpool's 3-0 victory at Norwich last weekend, glanced in a header off a cross by left back Konstantinos Tsimikas in the 18th minute in front of The Kop.

Mane struck home a powerful, low shot from a central position from Trent Alexander-Arnold's deft pass in the 69th.

Since the last time there was a full house at Anfield — in March 2020 — Liverpool has won the league title for the first time in 30 years and relinquished it to Manchester City.

So there was something of a party atmosphere for what ended up being a routine win against Burnley, which had claimed a shock victory in the same fixture last season to end Liverpool's 68-game unbeaten run at Anfield in the league.



There was also time for remembrance, with Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson laying a wreath at the center circle before kickoff in memory of Andrew Devine, who recently became the 97th person to die as a consequence of the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989. There was a mosaic on The Kop displaying the numbers "97" as well as a minute's silence.

A walkway outside Anfield has been renamed in tribute to Devine. Burnley fielded a lineup with players wearing jerseys with the

squad numbers 1-11, a rarity in modern-day football. Indeed, it was the first time it had happened in the Premier League since 1998, according to British broadcaster BT Sport.

Tsimikas is set to lose his place in the team, with Andrew Robertson returning to fitness after a minor ankle ligament injury. The Greek defender's parting gift was an assist from a pinpoint delivery into the penalty box, where Jota got in front of Burnley center back Ben Mee and guided a header low past

goalkeeper Nick Pope.

Mohamed Salah, needing two goals to reach 100 in the Premier League after barely four seasons, had a goal disallowed for a narrow offside midway through the first half, after which Mane volleyed over from another pass from Alexander-Arnold.

Burnley was quite dangerous on the break and off set pieces — from one long free kick, James Tarkowski beat Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson in the air but headed just wide from the edge of the area — but was subjected to wave after wave of attacks from the home side in the second half.

Salah had a shot cleared from near the line by Dwight McNeil and Mane had a low effort saved by the feet of Pope, who could do little about the Senegal forward's thumping shot to make it 2-0. It came at the end of a sweeping move from Liverpool, featuring a long ball forward by Virgil van Dijk, who again played the full game on his comeback from injury, and some neat touches by young midfielder Harvey Elliott, who also completed 90 minutes.

Assam: 14 People Arrested For Supporting Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan

Agenceis

Fourteen people were arrested from across Assam for alleged social media posts supporting the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, police said on Saturday.

The arrests were made since Friday night and they have been booked under different sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, IT Act and CrPC, a senior police officer said.

"We were on alert and monitoring social media for inflammatory posts," the officer said. Two people each were arrested

from Kamrup Metropolitan, Barpeta, Dhubri and Karimganj districts, police said.

One person each was arrested from Darrang, Cachar, Hailakandi, South Salmara, Goalpara and Hojai districts, they said.

Deputy Inspector General Violet Baruah said the Assam Police is taking stern legal action against pro-Taliban comments on social media that are harmful to national security.

"We are registering criminal cases against such persons. Please inform the police if any such thing comes to your notice," she tweeted.

Indian Children At Extremely High Risk Of Climate Crisis Impacts: UNICEF



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection, according to a new UNICEF report.

"The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index" (CCRI) is UNICEF's first focussed on children. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.

CCRI has placed India as one of the 33 extremely high-risk countries with flooding and air pollution being the repeated environmental shocks leading to socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children. Approximately 1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries classified as "extremely high-risk", including the four South Asian countries.

It is estimated that more than 600 million Indians will face "acute water shortages" in the coming years, while at the same time flash flooding is to increase significantly in the majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2 degree Celsius. Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most

polluted air in 2020 were in India. Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative, said, "Climate change is a child rights crisis. The Children's Climate Change Index data has pointed to the serious deprivations faced by children due to the intensifying effect that climate and environmental shocks have on existing inadequate access to essential services such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education."

"Understanding where and how children are uniquely vulnerable to this crisis is crucial to building our resilience and effectively addressing climate change. UNICEF hopes the findings of the report will help prioritize action to protect those most at risk and to ensure that children inherit a livable planet."

India's neighbours Nepal is ranked 51st and Sri Lanka 61st. Bhutan is ranked 111th, with children at relatively lower risk.

"For the first time, we have clear evidence of the impact of climate change on millions of children in South Asia. Droughts, floods, air pollution and river erosion across the region have left millions of children homeless and hungry, and without any healthcare and water," said George Laryea-Adjei, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia.

"Together, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have created an alarming crisis for South Asian children. The time to act is now - if we invest in water, healthcare and education, we can protect their futures from the impacts of a changing climate and degrading environment," Laryea-Adjei said.

Taliban Briefly Detain 150 Indians For Questioning Near Kabul Airport

Agenceis

A group of Indian nationals is learnt to have been stopped and taken to an unknown location near the Kabul airport on Saturday for questioning and verification of travel documents, triggering some confusion and concerns in India.

People tracking the developments in Kabul said there were no specific reports of any harm to Indians in Kabul so far.

The Indians were among 150 people who were heading towards the Kabul airport when they were stopped by Taliban fighters, according to Afghan media reports.

The Indians were learnt to have been released subsequently.

Kabul Now news portal initially reported that the group was "abducted" by the Taliban fighters but it later updated the report saying all the people were released and on their way back to the Kabul airport.

The people cited above said the



Indians were taken away for questioning and it is not unusual under the current circumstances. There was no immediate official comment or reaction on the matter.

Meanwhile, India on Saturday evacuated around 80 Indian nationals from Kabul by a transport military aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

The aircraft landed at Dushanbe in Tajikistan after evacuating the Indians from Kabul, they said, adding it is expected to arrive at Hindon airbase near Delhi in the evening. India has already evacuated 200

people including the ambassador and other staffers of its embassy in Kabul in two C-17 heavy-lift transport aircraft of the IAF after the Taliban seized control of Kabul on Sunday. The first evacuation flight brought back over 40 people, mostly staffers at the Indian embassy, on Monday.

The second C-17 aircraft evacuated around 150 people including Indian diplomats, officials, security personnel and some stranded Indians from Kabul on Tuesday.

Pakistan Interest In Afghanistan To Counter Indian Influence, Says US Report

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's strategic security objectives in Afghanistan almost certainly continue to be countering Indian influence and mitigating spillover of the Afghan civil war into Pakistani territory, a US government report has said, citing inputs from the Defence Intelligence Agency.

"Pakistan continues to support peace talks, while maintaining ties with the Afghan Taliban," US Department of State Office of the Inspector General noted in its latest quarterly report on Afghanistan.

"According to the DIA, Pakistan's strategic security objectives in Afghanistan almost certainly continue to be countering Indian influence and mitigating spillover into the Pakistani territory," the report said.

The report for the quarter April 1 to June 30 said the Pakistani government is concerned that a civil war in Afghanistan would have destabilising effects on Pakistan, including an influx of refugees and providing a potential safe haven for anti-Pakistan militants.

During the quarter, financial contributions to the Afghan Taliban increased in the Pakistan border regions, according to media reports, citing eyewitness sources. Solicitation efforts traditionally targeted mosques, but Afghan Taliban terrorists now openly visit the bazaar areas in nearby Pakistani towns, it said.

"The militants typically solicit contributions of USD 50 or more from shopkeepers. Local residents told reporters that solicitation



efforts were now commonplace in the towns and cities of Quetta, Kuchlak Bypass, Pashtun Abad, Ishaq Abad, and Farooqia," it said.

According to the report, the DIA, citing media reports, said that Iran welcomes the withdrawal of US and coalition forces from Afghanistan but "almost certainly" remains concerned about the resulting instability in Afghanistan. According to the DIA, Iran will continue to pursue influence in any future Afghan government through relations with the Afghan government, the Taliban, and power brokers, but Iran opposes the reestablishment of the Taliban's Islamic Emirate, it said.

As a resurgent Taliban continues to occupy new territory and an overtaxed Afghan National Defence Security Force is increasingly unable to provide security in certain areas, Afghan power brokers have increasingly begun raising private militias, it said, citing media reports.

"During the quarter, leaders related to the Northern Alliance spoke openly of a 'second resistance' to the Taliban, and some of the leaders began to mobilise anti-Taliban forces under their respective commands," the report said.

The Northern Alliance comprised militias of primarily Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara ethnicity, while the Taliban was largely of Pashtun ethnicity. The period of direct conflict between Northern Alliance and the Taliban included significant violence, often targeting civilians because of their ethnicity.

According to the Afghanistan Analysts Network, a resumption of conflict between the Taliban and the elements, which formerly made up the Northern Alliance, risks a recurrence of such violence.

In April, Ahmed Massoud -- a militia commander and son of the Northern Alliance's most prominent leader Ahmed Shah Massoud who was killed by al-Qaeda shortly before the attacks of September 11, 2001 -- said in a media interview that his followers were prepared for the "failure of peace".

UP Teen Survives Critical Surgery As Sisters Donate Portions Of Livers

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A 14-year-old boy, who was terminally ill with liver failure, has received a new lease of life, thanks to his two elder sisters who donated portions of their organs to him for a challenging transplant surgery, doctors said on Saturday.

The teenager from Budaun in Uttar Pradesh had undergone the surgery recently at a leading private facility in Gurgaon, and the hospital authorities claimed that it was "the country's first pediatric dual lobe liver transplant".

On the eve of Rakhi festival that marks the bond between a brother and a sister, Akshat and his siblings, Neha (29) and Prerna (22), shared their sentiments in a media interaction, along with a few doctors of the Medanta Hospital where the transplant took place mid-July.

"The patient was fighting for his life just over a month ago, terminally ill with liver failure resulting in deep jaundice. He was in a pre-coma state. The case was made even more complex since the patient was overweight, weighing around 92 kg," the hospital said in a statement.

While two of his sisters were eligible donors, they were both much lighter. Therefore, he required half-a-liver from both his sisters. To fit in both halves while keeping him from sinking through the long surgical procedure was challenging.

Akshat, who now weighs 65 kg, and his sisters had an excellent recovery after the surgery and are now enjoying normal

lives a month later, doctors said. Dr Arvinder Soin, Chairman, Medanta Liver Transplant Institute and Chief Surgeon in the case, said, "The decision to embark on a first-of-its kind surgery for a critically-ill child by putting all three siblings on the operating table together was a very tough one not just for the team but also for the parents."

"For a successful transplant, it is essential that the newly transplanted liver weighs at least 0.8 to 1 per cent of the patient's body weight. In this case, a single donor liver half weighed only 0.5 to 0.55 per cent of Akshat's weight. Hence two liver halves were needed to make up the required liver volume. We are delighted it all worked out well," he said.

Dr Neelam Mohan, Director, Pediatric Liver Diseases and Transplantation, Medanta said, "While the patient's sisters were eligible donors, the situation required both of them to donate portions of their livers. While the initial period of recovery in ICU was complex for the patient, eventually all the three siblings recovered well."

The story of these siblings will certainly bring cheers on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

"This is a unique example of the power of organ donation to save lives. It draws attention to the fact that any healthy person can save a loved one's life by donating half their liver or a single kidney without suffering any harm," Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director, Medanta Hospital, was quoted as saying in a statement.

FIR Lodged Against Munawwar Rana For Comparing Valmiki To Taliban



Agenceis

An FIR was Friday registered against poet Munawwar Rana for allegedly inciting religious feelings by comparing Valmiki, who wrote Ramayana, with Taliban, police said.

"FIR has been registered against Rana on complaint of one PL Bharti, who alleged that he hurt religious feelings by comparing Valmiki with Taliban," a senior official said.

The FIR was registered at Hazratganj police station under Sections 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth etc.), 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class), 505(1)(B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to

cause, fear or alarm to the public) and the SC/ST atrocities prevention act. Bharti in his complaint alleged that Rana, in his statement, hurt feelings of Dalits by comparing Talian with Valmiki and hurt feelings of Hindus.

Rana while talking to a channel had said: "Valmiki became a God after he wrote the Ramayana, before that he was a dacoit. A person's character can change. Similarly, the Taliban, for now, are terrorists but people and characters change."

"When you talk about Valmiki, you will have to talk about his past. In your religion, you make anyone god. But he was a writer and he wrote the Ramayana, but we are not in competition here," Rana had said.

Watch to know more in this episode of **Inkishaf** on **KASHMIR OBSERVER** YouTube Channel



<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

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How Kashmir's Green Land Is Being Dumped

