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'Alpine Girl' From Bengaluru Treks To 50 High-Altitude Lakes In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Braving arthritis, a Bengaluru woman created a record of sorts by trekking to 50 high-altitude lakes, located about 10,000 feet above sea level, in Kashmir within a span of four months, earning the sobriquet of 'Alpine Girl'.

Probably the first female to trek to these high-altitude lakes, Namratha Nandish, who stays in the Bengaluru's Bellandur area, started with Tulian Lake, which is sandwiched between

the Pir Panjal and the Zaskar mountain ranges in South Kashmir's Pahalgam area, and concluded with Shilsar Lake in the higher reaches of the Anantnag-Kishtwar area.

Alpine lakes are located above 10,000 feet from sea level.

"Nothing was predetermined.

It all started with an idea of my husband, Abhishek, adding a visit to Srinagar in the previous winters. He wanted to see the frozen Dal Lake," says Nandish.

The couple embarked on their journey to the Kashmir Valley on January 26 and checked into a local hotel.

THE PEOPLE ARE SO HOSPITABLE AND WARM here that I want to spend more and more time with them. I don't feel like going as the people here made me feel one among them."

"I had done my homework and had decided to trek 33 lakes during the season as a birthday gift to myself," Nandish, who turned 33 this year said.

An HR manager in an information technology company, the work from home facility, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, came in handy for her to reach her goal during the trekking season, which started in mid-June.

"Work hard and play hard. On my weekends, I packed my bags and joined a trekking group to achieve my goal" **More On P6**

Corona Cases Shoot Up, 165 Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases continue to shoot up in Jammu and Kashmir as 165 more people tested positive for virus on Sunday, even as no fresh fatality was reported from the Union territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 156 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir and nine from Jammu division, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 33076.

Giving district-wise breakup of positive cases, the officials said that Srinagar reported highest 87 cases, Baramulla 26, Bandipora and Ganderbal 13 each, Budgam 9, Pulwama and Kupwara three each and one new case each in Anantnag and Kulgam districts. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where no fresh case was reported on Sunday.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of four cases, Doda two, and one new case each was detected from Kathua, Poonch and Reasi districts. Udhampur, Rajouri, Samba, Kishtwar and Ramban reported no fresh cases.

"Moreover, 103 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 05 from Jammu Division and 98 from Kashmir Division," they said.

The officials also said that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported today. **More On P6**

Policeman Shot Dead In Srinagar

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Sunday shot dead a policeman in Batamalo area of this capital city.

29-year-old Tawseef Ahmad was shot at and injured by suspected militants from close range outside his home in SD Colony, Batamalo on Sunday evening, officials said. Ahmad, who sustained serious injuries in the attack, was removed to the nearby SMHS hospital for treatment.

However, the doctors there declared him brought dead.

"He had received a single bullet injury on the left side of his head. He was dead when brought to the hospital," Medical Superintendent SMHS, Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer.

Soon after the attack, a joint team of police and CRPF reached the shootout spot and launched a search operation to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, police in a hand-out issued on Sunday night said that preliminary investigation has revealed that "terrorists" fired upon Constable Tawseef Ahmad Wani, a resident of S.D Colony Batamalo around 8:15 pm.

"In this terror incident, he had sustained grievous bullet injuries and was shifted to nearby hospital for the treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom," he said.

He further said that police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law and investigation is in progress to work to establish the circumstances which lead to this "terror crime".

The police spokesperson further said that senior police officers reached the spot and the area has been cordoned off and search was going on.

Ahmad's killing is the first casualty in the month of November so far. **More On P6**



WINTER WARMTH: Kashmiri Kanger or ember-stoked firepot has started flooding the valley markets with the onset of cold season.KO Photo, Abid Bhat

MBBS in Pakistan: Police Seeks Sanction To Prosecute 8 Persons

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has moved the home department for granting sanction for prosecution against nine people, including a leader of a Hurriyat constituent and an advocate from South Kashmir, in a case related to "selling" of MBBS seats in Pakistan to Kashmiri students and using the money to support and fund militancy, officials said on Sunday.

The case was registered by the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), a branch of the police's CID, in July last year after receiving information through reliable sources that several unscrupulous persons, including some Hurriyat leaders, were hand in glove with some educational consultancies and were "selling" Pakistan-based MBBS seats and seats in other professional courses in many colleges and universities.

At least four people were arrested by the CIK in August and it also named two of their accomplices who are at present in Pakistan and its controlled Kashmir areas.

The CIK, after a thorough investigation, moved the Jammu and Kashmir home department and sought sanction for prosecution against the nine people under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), mandated according to the act.

According to the officials, more evidence has surfaced

during the probe in which it was also found that the money gathered from admissions had been passed on to some militant groups as well as secessionist groups for promoting enmity and waging war against the country.

Significantly, the case could come in handy in carrying out with the provisions of banning hardline Hurriyat Conference

Hurriyat leaders to avail the "programme", a brainchild of Pakistan's external snooping agency ISI, aimed at incentivising militancy by compensating the family of killed militants by way of providing free of cost MBBS and engineering seats, the officials said.

However, there have been instances where such families were disappointed as mon-



SOME CASES, THE PRICE WAS brought down on 'sifarish' (recommendation) of senior Hurriyat leaders, and depending upon the political heft of these secessionist leader, who intervened, concessions were extended to the aspiring student and his family".

as the chief of one of its constituents -- Mohammad Akbar Bhat alias Zaffar Bhat of the Salvation Front -- is among the nine against whom the sanction has been sought under the stringent UAPA.

Some of the witnesses examined have indicated that many families approached

etary consideration was given precedence over the intended objective of the "programme" run by the ISI, they said.

The officials said that cost of seats ranged between Rs 10 to Rs 12 lakhs and in "some cases, the price was brought down on 'sifarish' (recommendation) of senior Hurriyat" **More On P6**

Gulmarg Coldest In Valley At Minus 3 Degree Celsius

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Sub-zero temperatures continued in Pahalgam and Gulmarg even as night temperature recorded a slight rise at most places in Kashmir Valley on Sunday.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded

a low of 5.5°C against 5.2°C on the previous night. The temperature is however above 3.7°C for this time of the year in the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 6.2°C against previous night's 3.2°C. Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.0°C **More On P6**



DGPs Conference To Discuss Kashmir Situation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The internal security scenario in the country, situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, and a key role played by the police during COVID-19 pandemic are some of the issues to be discussed at the annual DGPs and IGP's conference to be held in Lucknow on November 20-21, officials said.

New-age crimes like cyber terrorism, radicalisation of youth and violence perpetrated by Maoists will also be discussed at the top police officers' conference to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

About 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP from all states, union territories and central government will take part in the meet, organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

An overview of the internal security situation in the country will be presented to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and discussions will

be held on how to improve the overall security scenario with more people-friendly initiatives, an official said.

Pakistan-sponsored militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the role of police as frontline warriors during the pandemic will be part of the two-day deliberations.

The state police chiefs are expected to share their experiences in handling the pandemic and how the police have helped distressed people during the health crisis, another official said.

According to an estimate, over one lakh police and paramilitary personnel were infected by the COVID-19 in the country and nearly 1,000 of them succumbed to the virus.

Among the infected include about 40,000 paramilitary personnel and 30,000 police officials in Maharashtra, one of the worst hit states in India.

Among the deaths include over 120 paramilitary personnel and nearly 300 in Maharashtra Police, almost all **More On P6**

NEWS DIGEST

LG Remembers Maqbool Sherwani

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday paid tributes to Maqbool Sherwani -- who delayed the invasion of Pakistan-backed tribals in Baramulla district in 1947 -- saying his indomitable spirit and contribution to upholding the unity and integrity of the country will continue to inspire generations to come.

"Tributes to great martyr Maqbool Sherwani on his punyatiithi. A true patriot who made supreme sacrifice to save J&K from Pakistan Army's invasion. His indomitable spirit & contribution to upholding the unity" **More On P6**

Srivastava Takes Over As GOC Victor Force

Major General Prashant Srivastava on Sunday took over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's south Kashmir-based counter-insurgency Victor Force, a defence spokesman said. Major Gen Srivastava took over the charge from Major Gen Rashim Bali, who has moved to Delhi on an important assignment in the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Army), defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said. He said Maj Gen Srivastava was commissioned into elite Parachute Battalion of the Special Forces on June 9, 1990. **More On P6**

Teen Student Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

A teenager died of a massive cardiac arrest in the Frisal area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Sunday morning, locals said. 17-year-old Nasir Hussain Mir of Kujjar was at his home when he fell unconscious on Sunday morning, relatives said. The boy, they said, was shifted to a nearby hospital in an unconscious condition where doctor's declared him dead. They said Nasir was a ninth standard student. **More On P6**

Low blood pressure linked to increased death risk following stroke

Agencies

Even though high blood pressure or hypertension has been a well-established risk factor for stroke and for deaths, it turns out that having low blood pressure is just as great a risk factor for death after stroke. A new study suggests that stroke patients with low blood pressure and non-cardiovascular conditions, such as cancer and dementia, have a higher risk of death after stroke. These findings appear in the journal Stroke. "Lower average blood pressure, measured in the outpatient setting, was associated with increased risk of death after a stroke event. In addition, this higher risk of death appeared to happen particularly in patients who were smokers, or had

a diagnosis of cardiac disease, cancer or dementia," explained corresponding author Hugo J. Aparicio, MD, MPH, assistant professor of neurology at Boston University School of Medicine and an investigator at the Framingham Heart Study. Current national guidelines recommend treating high blood pressure after stroke, but the timing of this treatment and whether to treat patients in a normal, low or mildly elevated range of blood pressures have been debated. The researchers identified nearly 30,000 Veteran patients with a first ischemic stroke who had outpatient blood pressure measurements within the previous 18 months prior to the stroke. They divided this group by blood pressure categories and



followed them over time for the outcomes of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality, with the hypothesis that both very high and very low blood pressure values contribute to higher mortality risk. They found that persons with lower blood pressure had the highest mortality, especially when they looked at a subgroup of patients

with at least one comorbidity of smoking, cardiovascular disease, cancer or dementia. "Our study suggests that stroke patients with a history of low to low-normal blood pressures, some 10 per cent of stroke patients, are at high risk of mortality," said Aparicio. The researchers hope that by investigating the factors that contribute to death after stroke, patients, families and practitioners can better understand and recognize conditions, like low blood pressure, that may predict their health outcomes. "Ideally, this information can encourage better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of risk factors such as smoking, heart disease, and cancer, so that if a stroke does occur patients have a better chance at recovery and survival," he added.

‘Sleep Problems Affect Children’s Reading Ability’



Agencies

According to new research, it has been observed that sleep problems may affect children's reading ability. In the study published in the British Journal of Educational Psychology that included 339 children aged four to 14 years, parents were asked to complete questionnaires about their children's sleep, while the children completed a test of word reading efficiency. Children whose parents reported increased sleep-disordered breathing, daytime sleepiness, and a short time for children to fall asleep (which is generally associated with increased

tiredness) had poorer performance on reading tasks for both words and nonwords. "Being a good reader is a strong predictor of academic success and improved life outcomes, so we recommend screening children with sleep problems for reading difficulties, and children with reading difficulties for sleep problems," said corresponding author Anna Joyce, PhD, MSc, of Regent's University London. Anna added, "Screening and treating sleep and literacy difficulties at a young age could help to improve life outcomes for all children."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK13A-7414 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody haiving any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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Tutorials

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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 for admission to B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. Para Medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2021.

Reference: i) Notification No. 070 - BOPEE of 2021 dated 08.07.2021.
ii) Notice No. 058-BOPEE of 2021 dated 26-07-2021.
iii) Notice No. 061-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-08-2021.
iv) Letter No: Sc/491- B.Sc.Nursing/7513 dated 11-10-2021.
v) Notification No.087-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09.09.2021.
vi) Notification No.104-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13.10.2021.
vii) Notification No.111-BOPEE of 2021 dated 18.10.2021.

NOTIFICATION No: 118-BOPEE of 2021 DATED: 05-11-2021.

Consequent upon the conduct of Common Entrance Test on 19th September -2021 for admission to B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. Para-medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2021 and declaration of result thereof vide Notification No.104-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13.10.2020, the Board vide Notification No.III-BOPEE of 2021 dated 18.10.2021 conducted physical round of counselling of eligible candidates w.e.f. 25.10.2021 to 03.11.2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar / Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seat(s) / college(s) as per their merit-cum-preference are hereby provisionally selected for admission to B. Sc. Nursing / B. Sc. Para Medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2021 in various Government / Private colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www. ikbopee.eov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted colleges/ Institutions from 6th Nov. 2021 to 16.11.2021 (4.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Date of Birth Certificate
2. Marks Card of 10+2 with (PCB)
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Any other certificates / documents as required by the College authorities.

The candidates who have been allotted seats in Government / Private Colleges / Institutions in accordance with their preferences and in order of merit shall have to join against their allotted seat(s) up to 16th November, 2021 positively and in case any candidate fails to join against his / her allotted seat(s)/college(s) shall not be eligible to participate in second round of up-gradation / allotment counseling under any circumstances.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents 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 (16-112021) 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 / date to complete admission formalities as such 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 helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com/ jakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com.in , on 17th of November, 2021 (2.00 PM) to enable the Board to consolidate the same for preparation of seat matrix for second round of up-gradation / allotment counselling.

Pursuant to circular No. JKPMC-21/131/7386-7456 dated 13-09-2021, issued by the President, J&K Para Medical Council, Jammu, the Heads of colleges / Institutions are requested to release the documents / certificates and fee to the candidates who are shifting from GNM (Lateral Entry) / GNM / ANM/ MRT / 12th based Paramedical courses without any loss of time. However, the candidates are advised to take a conscious decision before withdrawal from their earlier admissions as they shall not be able to participate again and again in the earlier allotted courses / seat(s) /institutions.

Note:

1. Rule-17of the Reservation Rules has been duly applied and is reflected against each candidate wherever it has been applied.
2. The Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or reserved category, it shall constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and made recommendations based on which institution shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he / she shall not be admitted to the course / institute and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE.
3. 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 candidates.
4. The Principals of Colleges / Institutions are advised to download the copy of this Notification along with its annexure from the official website of the BOPEE (www.jkbopee.gov.in) for reference and record.
5. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard.
6. The annexure "A" shall be available on website of the Board www.ikbopee.gov.in only.

E&OE

No: BOPEE/Exam-06/2021

Dated: 05-11-2021

DIPK-NB-4781/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Room No. 01, Block-A, Central Office, Karan Nagar Srinagar, 190010
Phone: 0194-2470466 Fax: 0194-2476931email: commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in

Subject: Jammu and Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws 2021.

Notification No: 02 of 2021
Dated: 03/11/2021

In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause-D of Section 395

of Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act- 2000 and pursuant to the approval conveyed by the Government, vide No: HUD-LSGOJMC/56/2021-01 (C.No.16560) dated: 09.10.2021, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation adopts Jammu and Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws-2021 within its Jurisdiction and are hereby notified.

These Building Bye-Laws/Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Government Gazette.

Sd/-

DIPK-NB-4750/21

(Athar Amir Khan)IAS
Commissioner,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

No:SMC/PS/Com/1919-24

Dated: 03 .11.2021

Office of the Convener District Health Society, Kulgam (Chief Medical Officer, Kulgam)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Hiring of staff on contractual basis under National Health Mission.

Reference: District Health Society Kulgam's advertisement Notice No NHM/KGM/690-94 Dated : 11-01-2021 for the post of Nursing Tutor.

The modified criteria for the post of Nursing Tutor as directed by the Chairman District Health Society, Kulgam and in view of COVID-19 Pandemic selection is to be made purely on merit is reproduced hereunder:-

1. B. Sc (Nursing)	= 90 Points on pro rata basis
2. Higher Qualification (M. Sc)	=10 Points on pro rata basis
Total	=100 Points

It is as such notified for the information of all the stake holders that the higher qualification (M.Sc Nursing) if any acquired by them prior to the cutoff date be submitted in the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in print media. No certificate shall be entertained after the last date.

No. CMOK/PLG/2021-22/4199-4203
Dated 05-11-2021

Convener ,
District Health Society
(Chief Medical Officer)
Kulgam

DIPK-12078/21

Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency Kashmir (UDAK)

Habitat Centre Bernina Srinagar

Phone :0194-2490259 Fax :0194-2490259

PUBLIC NOTICE

All these candidates of District Sinagar and Ganderbal who have applied for providing of financial assistance under Self Employment Programme (SEP-I/SEP-G) of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) through Urban Dev. Agency Kashmir (UDAK) Srinagar for the year 2020-21 should present themselves before the Task Force Committee on the date and time given below for screening/ recommendations of their loan case in the office of the Chief Executive Officer Urban Dev. Agency Kashmir (UDAK) 4th floor. Habitat Centre Bernina Bye-Pass Srinagar to Finalize their cases as per the guidelines of NULM scheme. The candidates are requested to bring along themselves all related documents in original

So. No:	Name of the District	Date of Interview	Time
01	Srinagar/ Ganderbal	Tuesday 9.11.2021	11.00 AM

NOTE: Candidates presenting themselves before the Task Force Committee should follow necessary SOP's of Covid-19
No: UDAK/gen/947-52

Chief Executive Officer
Urban Dev. Agency Kashmir

Dated 5-11-2021

DIPK-12020/21

JAMMU SHOOTOUT

Third Person Succumbs,
Manhunt On For Two
Accused Including Cop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: A history-sheeter, who was among two persons critically injured in a shooting incident here, succumbed to injuries on Sunday, raising the death toll in the incident to three, officials said.

They said efforts are on to nab the two accused including a policeman who used his service rifle to shoot four persons after a brawl over some issue in Salehar village of Arnia in RS Pura on Friday.

Bullet-riddled bodies of two persons, Sabar Chowdhary and Arif Chowdhary, were recovered while Babar Chowdhary and Parveen Kumar were found in a critical condition and shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital following the shooting.

Babar Chowdhary, a history-sheeter who had served two jail terms under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in the past, succumbed to injuries while being shifted from GMC hospital to a hospital in Punjab for specialised treatment, the officials said.

They said the body of Babar Chowdhary, who was the elder brother of Sabar Chowdhary, was brought back to GMC from Kathua and its post-mortem is underway.

The body will be handed over to family members for last rites after completion of the legal and medical formalities, the officials said.

Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Chandan Kohli had already constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the incident and bring the culprits to book.

After initial investigation, constable Bhopinder Singh emerged as the main accused who had fired indiscriminately from his AK assault rifle on the four people, the officials said.

Singh was accompanied by his former colleague constable Sadeeq and both of them fled the scene after the shooting, they said, adding multiple teams have been formed to arrest the accused who are on the run.

The officials said Singh has already been placed under suspension following the incident.

Tribal Dept Sanctions Projects
Worth 38 Cr In Poonch

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs Department on Sunday sanctioned projects worth Rupees 38 crore for the Poonch district, an official spokesman said.

The projects include the establishment of 12 smart schools, tribal museum and research centre, the setting up of two milk villages, developing public infrastructure in 18 villages, health infrastructure, mobile dispensaries, tourism infrastructure and sheep farms and dairy farms, officials said.

The spokesman said the sanction was granted by Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary at a meeting convened to review the progress under district capital expenditure, Border Area Development Programme (BADP), tribal welfare and youth engagement initiatives in the district.

Choudhary asked the departments for immediate steps to ensure timely completion of projects under centrally-sponsored schemes. He also took serious note of the slow pace of tendering in rural development work and delay in repair of machines and transformers for which departments were asked to fix responsibility.

Detailed review of tribal plan and BADP was also conducted and departments were asked to ensure outcome-based utilisation of funds within stipulated time, the spokesman said.

He said discussions were also held regarding youth engagement programme and it was agreed to provide funding to the tune of Rs 5

crore, including development of counselling centres, library, sports equipment and tournaments, grant-in-aid of Rs 60 lakh to youth clubs, funding for self-employment schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini and initiative for victims of border shelling and insurgency.

The secretary also approved Rs 75 Lakh for hostel furniture, while Rs 4.30 crore has been provided by the department for scholarship to tribal students and Rs 2.20 crore for facilities in 11 selected schools of various zones in Poonch, the spokesman said.

He said establishment of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Poonch at a cost of Rs 24 crore has been proposed by the tribal affairs department for which Deputy Commissioner Poonch was asked to propose land and Detailed Project Report to be formulated by the Public Works Department. The EMRS will be a residential school for 600 students with all modern facilities, he said.

The spokesman added that development of 56 villages in the district under the Integrated Village Development Scheme of the tribal department was also discussed for which the departments concerned were asked to make efficient plans with active involvement of gram panchayats.

After Lobbying For UT
Status, LBA Endorses
Ladakh Statehood Demand

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

LEH: After years of lobbying for separation from "Muslim Kashmir" and Union Territory status, the Ladakh Buddhist Association has now endorsed the demand for special protections for the region.

In a general council meeting on Sunday, the rightwing Buddhist body's president endorsed the Ladakh Apex Body of People's Movement's demand for statehood and ex-

tension of constitutional safeguards under the Indian Constitution's 6th Schedule.

Ladakh, formerly part of the Jammu and Kashmir state, enjoyed the same special status and constitutional safeguards under the Article 370 as the rest of the state before it was carved out as a union territory.

A statement issued by the body stated that its president "exhorted" the public to "extend complete support for the LBA's decision to usher Lada-

kh's future into a state of certainty, security and appropriate development."

"The participating members endorsed Mr. President's logical developments that lead to the decisions by giving huge round of applause and approval," the association said.

The body, however, did not explain the reasons behind its sudden dissatisfaction with Ladakh's Union Territory status, incidentally a decades-old demand propagated by the outfit itself.

Srinagar Admin Conducts Market
Checking, Lodges FIRs Against Traders

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure all essential commodities are sold at already fixed prices besides ensuring their quality and availability in City markets, the special Enforcement Squads of the district administration today conducted market checking in all Tehsils of the District, officials said on Sunday.

The special Market Inspection was carried out by all Tehsildars of Srinagar in coordination with the police, Legal Metrology, FCS&CA and other Departments to curb black marketing and profiteering in markets in the wake of the ensuing winter season.

The teams undertook market checking in different parts of the Srinagar city, including Panthachowk, Chanpora, Batamalo, Khanyar, Zadibal, Soura, Nigeen, Saidakadal, Hazratbal, Bemina, Hawal, Sonwar, Dalgate, Maharaja Bazar, Hari Singh High Street and other areas and booked several erring shopkeepers found failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of underweight products.

During the market checking, a fine to the tune of over Rupees 50

thousand was imposed on the erring vendors, besides huge quantities of rotten vegetables and other items were destroyed on the spot. In addition 2 FIRs were also lodged against the erring traders. The Enforcement teams also checked the implementation of Covid-19 SOPs in the market places.

Pertinently, the Deputy Commissioner had recently convened an Officers meeting with regard to winter preparedness in which he passed several directions including conducting frequent market checking to ensure price control and ensuring availability of quality essential commodities.

New Tools Of Repression
Only 'Progress' Since
Abrogation: CPI(M)

KO NEWS SERVICE

QAZIGUND: The central government's "unconstitutional act" of abrogation Jammu and Kashmir's special status hadn't restored normalcy and this was evident with the government forces constructing new bunkers and now even taking over marriage halls in the Valley, CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Sunday said.

"BJP's fake narrative about progress and development in J&K post August 5, 2019 gets trashed by such incidents. Every day more draconian laws are brought in with the sole purpose of suffocating people into silence," Tarigami said.

Addressing a convention of party workers in south Kashmir's Kund, Qazigund in the Kulgam district, Tarigami said that security bunkers are coming up at every nook and corner of Srinagar.



With the arrival of more paramilitary troops in Kashmir, the four-time legislator said that the situation has reached a stage where the troops are being stationed in the only private space left for the public.

The only progress that has been made in the last three years, Tarigami said, was the creation of more tools of repression. "J&K has been made a model police state with no redressal mechanism or constitutional institution," he said.

Veteran Journalist Shahid
Bukhari's Death Widely Condoled

SRINAGAR: The death of KTV editor Shahid Masood Bukhari on Sunday was widely condoled by civil society and political groups in Kashmir. The veteran journalist died of a heart attack.

Hailing from the Qazipora, Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district,

Bukhari has been in the field of journalism for decades and had also worked with the public broadcasters All India Radio, earlier called Radio Kashmir, and Doordarshan.

Bukhari's demise was condoled by various media organisations. Mohammad Aslam Bhat, on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir Editors Forum, expressed grief and said that Bukhari will be always be remembered for his contributions to journalism. His death was also condoled by the Jammu and Kashmir Journalists Association, and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir expressed grief and solidarity with the bereaved



family. "I was deeply shocked to learn about the death of Shahid Bukhari, have no words to express my grief," he said.

Senior leader of the Apni Party and also a resident of Tangmarg, Ghulam Hasan Mir termed Bukhari's demise as extremely unfortunate and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members.

"His unexpected demise has left everyone in deep shock besides creating a huge void hard to be filled. His immense contributions as a sincere journalist and humble human being shall always be remembered for times to come," said Mir.

Abdul Qayoom Wani, former president of the Employees Joint Action Committee also expressed grief on Bukhari's demise.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL
ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (2nd Call)

NIT No. -197/Xen/Rew/Bla/2021-2021 Dated. 05/11/2021 (Re Tender)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Levelling of land back side of Ziyarat sharief Soin Sadnar by way of earth filling with chain link fencing and path at Sain Sadnar Under B2V , Block Rafiabab	4.40	200	30 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted
2	C/O fencing for GMS Hundi and Shaldajan Under B2V, Block Boniyar	4.63	200	30 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted
3	C/O link road from PMGSY road Dudran to Geair Nallah Bardean Under B2V3 ,Block -Boniyar	4.21	200	30 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted
4	Construction of P/bund at different spots in Bella and Prankatran, Block Boniyar under B2V2	4.76	200	30 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-11-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05-11-2021 to 11-11-2021 up to 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	05-11-2021
4	Bid Submission End Date	11-11-2021 up to 4:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 12-11-2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The contractor could take part in the tendering process of only those works which are to be executed Block to which he/she belongs, Bids from bidder other than the concerned Block will be rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. (Copy enclosed) in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All The Bidders has to submit Hard Copies of all documents uploaded with the bid and Bidder has to submit Bid Security Form instead of Earnest Money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms.
- If the bidder quotes his bid exceeding the tendering cost. His bid will be automatically rejected.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No 13875-82
Dated 05/11/2021
DIPK-12022/21

Executive Engineer.
REW Baramulla

Testing For
Dengue Virus
Started At
Srinagar's
JLNM Hospital

SRINAGAR: Amid an outbreak of dengue in Jammu and Kashmir, the Director Health Services Kashmir on Sunday inaugurated a dengue testing facility for dengue patients at the JLNM Hospital in Srinagar's Rainawari.

Director Mushtaq Rather said that the Health Department has formulated special teams in other hospitals under the ambit of the Directorate across Kashmir for the detection and treatment of dengue virus.

"There are some 26 cases of dengue. All of them are travelers. There is no indigenous case from the Valley but we have started treatment facilities in all the hospitals. We have also created special teams in all districts for treatment, monitoring and surveillance of dengue cases," Rather said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT

DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT & COUNSELLING CENTRE, BUDGAM

Phone No-01951-295897, email ID: deccbudgam@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: - SAHYTA-(A livelihood Mission to the youth in distress – Mission Youth)
Sympathetic Assistance and Handholding for youth Transformation and Amelioration

District Employment and Counselling Centre Budgam informs through the medium of this notice, to all the interested youth in distress in the age group of 18 to 40 that SAHYTA- Scheme has been launched to provide financial assistance for setting up gainful self-employment units.

Eligibility for Registration:

- Domicile of J&K.
- Any person between 18 to 40 years of age who has lost any next of kin/ family member in insurgency
- Disability of 50% or above suffered by the victim or his / her family during militancy related incident which is of permanent nature.

Assistance under Scheme:

- Financial Assistance up to Rs. 2.0 lac

How to Apply: -
To avail SAHYTA Scheme visit the District Employment and counselling Centre Budgam.

Documents Required :-

- Certificate regarding noninvolvement in militancy/ anti national activities from SDPO.
- Death cum post Mortem Certificate.
- Medical certificate in case of Disability
- Proof of relationship of the beneficiary with victim
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Unemployment Certificate from Employment Deptt.
- DPR / details about the Self Employment unit.
- Under taking/ NOC from other family members

Eligible candidates are further advised to register with the District Employment and Counselling Centre Budgam online on <http://jakemp.nic.in> before applying for the scheme.

For further details contact: -

Assistant Director Employment, District Employment & Counselling Centre, Budgam.
E-mail:- deccbudgam@gmail.com Cell No. 9906409145/9797982557

No: DE&CC/BUD/SAHYTA/2021-22/ 702-708
Dated: 02-11-2021.
DIPK-12082/21

Sd/-
Assistant Director Employment,
DE&CC, Budgam.



KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Stigma of Period
Poverty

SYED NABIL AHSAN

Before we define period poverty, it is important to unearth the flaws which are rooted deep within the patriarchal society. The stigmatized society has enclosed the women, young girls, and non-binary individuals in a societal prison, in front of the sneering faces of financial pressure, cultural shame, and poor hygiene accessibility. Menstruation is the normal vaginal bleeding, where the uterus sheds its monthly build-up of tissue lining. Menstruation is a natural cycle triggered by hormonal changes and continues from a woman's/girl's first stage of puberty until the end of their fertility. This is tinted with stains of cultural shame, where menstruating individuals are deemed as "impure" or "dirty," thus casting a shadow of taboo which has etched itself into society's walls.

This cultural shame has led to heightened problems for women and girls in society. In the face of cultural shame, women and girls are deprived of basic hygiene needs, and are unable to even purchase sanitary pads. As the "pink tax" lurks in-between menstrual hygiene products, period poverty is born. Moreover, menstruating young girls who have reached the first stage of puberty have inadequate knowledge about managing their periods with care and, most importantly, with dignity.

However, companies which have labelled women and girls through the colour "pink" through the pink tax have made it financially distressing for menstruating individuals to afford their basic human needs. Even though many countries have banned the pink tax and many families cannot afford menstrual products and use old clothing, according to Unicef.

In India, only 12% have access to sanitary products, leaving

the rest to use unsafe materials like rags and sawdust as an alternative. The price is increasingly making the population living in poverty, especially in developing countries, vulnerable.

For example, menstruating young girls are deemed as "eligible" for marriage, resulting in child marriages. Due to the lack of adequate sex education most people are not comfortable to talk about periods. As a result, the taboo embracing it hugs this issue tighter.

Period poverty also follows when a poverty-stricken household cannot afford sanitary pads and instead has to use alternatives. The price labels have only made the companies richer, and the poor -- poorer.

To combat period poverty, we have to dismantle and destroy the taboo and stigma that have had society in their grip for generations. However, eradicating the pink tax on sanitary pads cannot alone solve this problem.

To build some traction against period poverty, it is imperative to arm pre-adolescent boys, girls, and their peers and caregivers with mainstream knowledge about menstruation and why it is a vital part of a woman and a girl's health so that they can manage their periods with confidence.

It is important for the community to invest in safer and convenient access to menstrual hygiene products to promote menstrual hygiene across all households. Also, corporate offices, schools, universities, and restaurants should provide free sanitary pads and other menstrual hygiene products to make them accessible and convenient for the women and girls in society.

Advocating for menstrual hygiene using approaches to promote comfort, invulnerability, and respect is necessary to uproot the social stigma and make societies liveable, led by a force of equity.

Syed Nabil Ahsan is a freelance contributor.

OTHER OP

A dangerous 'truce'

....A little over a month ago, Prime Minister Imran Khan had revealed in an interview to Turkish state television that Pakistan was already in talks with some factions of the militant group also known as the Pakistani Taliban. These talks have apparently led to 'results' and the government is set to release up to two dozen "foot soldiers" -- whatever that term means in the context of a dangerous terrorist outfit that has killed tens of thousands of people in the country. Indeed, the "just a spate of attacks" the prime minister had referred to in that interview has not ceased, with security personnel being frequently targeted.

The TTP's bloodletting cannot be whitewashed. Neither can the government afford to turn a blind eye to the group's predilection for violating peace deals as the past has shown. What assurance do our rulers have that an organisation which left no stone unturned to carry out ferocious attacks against all -- the military, government officials, ordinary people -- and that has been accused of colluding with RAW is just a misguided force that is now willing to tread the path of reform? What guarantee can they give that the release of those they see as minor operatives won't be a precursor to amnesty for top-ranking TTP commanders and masterminds? Indeed, what evidence do they have that the truce just agreed to will last?

It is true that political unrest and dire economic circumstances at home, as well as an unstable situation in Afghanistan, have made Pakistani officials doubly anxious to resolve the TTP challenge. Across the border, the Afghan Taliban, a nationalist force that fought against the recent foreign occupation of Afghanistan, face greater tests as they grapple with the task of governing a war-torn country. Besides they may feel beholden to the TTP, with whom they share tribal links, for having sheltered them when they were driven out of their country post 9/11. That may explain their role as mediator. But is this exercise, shrouded in such secrecy, the way to a durable solution?

-Dawn

'BIG FOOD' AT THE UN TABLE

A Recipe for Big Waste?

Food corporations' voluntary agreements and charitable food donations cannot sufficiently reduce food waste.

Industrial food systems create industrial-scale food waste. Currently, up to half of the food produced globally is never eaten, representing a whopping 8-10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. None of us wants to think that our food systems might be designed to be wasteful, especially given that the world's resources are being depleted at an alarming rate, and that up to a quarter of our fellow humans are going hungry. The abundance of calories produced by our food systems (in the United States, up to 4,000 calories per day for each person) presents a glaring contradiction to the scarcity and hunger manufactured alongside it.

Tammara Soma,
Charlie Spring,
Marie Mourad

WE all know that guilty feeling when we realise we have let something go mouldy, and hastily move it from the refrigerator to the rubbish bin. We have seen food recall notices at grocery stores following manufacturing errors. It is easy to assume such mistakes and mishaps are the main causes of food waste. But food waste is not only caused by forgetful consumers and accidents in food supply chains. In fact, food systems research has shown that food waste is a core, and even profitable, feature of food systems today. But as it is so often the case with environmental hazards, the profit motive trumps preventive action, and the issue of food waste is only superficially addressed.

Industrial food systems create industrial-scale food waste. Currently, up to half of the food produced globally is never eaten, representing a whopping 8-10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. None of us wants to think that our food systems might be designed to be wasteful, especially given that the world's resources are being depleted at an alarming rate, and that up to a quarter of our fellow humans are going hungry. The abundance of calories produced by our food systems (in the United States, up to 4,000 calories per day for each person) presents a glaring contradiction to the scarcity and hunger manufactured alongside it.

For decades, food companies have been donating their excess to charity in an effort to resolve this contradiction, but neither food waste nor hunger has been significantly decreased as a result of these efforts. Is the answer, then, just to urge companies to redistribute more surplus, and perhaps tweak their supply chain processes a little harder?

The messaging of this year's United Nations' Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) would suggest as much. The summit, held in New York on September 23, envisaged setting the stage for "global food systems transformation



That so much food is being wasted while so many are going hungry is an undeniable sign that our economies of food are lacking justice. But it is misguided to suggest the problems of hunger and food waste can simply be resolved if we invest more in food redistribution.

to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]".

SDG Target 12.3 aims to halve global food waste by 2030. Achieving this goal would require eliminating waste from farm to fork, but solutions on offer tend to be focused on "downstream" consumer and retail food waste rather than "upstream" waste prevention in the food supply chain.

The UNFSS continued this trend. The summit's Action Track 2, titled Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns, focussed partially on the issue of food waste. But it stated "eliminating wasteful patterns of consumption" and "building consumer demand for sustainably produced food", as the main goals in this arena, rather than addressing root causes of wastage.

Investigative research and campaign group Feedback Global's executive director, Carina Millstone, blames the summit's shortcomings around the issue of food waste and the food system in general on the disproportionate role corporations played in its organisation.

Millstone was part of the food waste working group of Action Track 2, but she says she realised early on that the group was dominated by a "handful of organisations intent on promoting voluntary, business initiatives and citizen action for food waste above all else". Like hundreds of others that boycotted the summit, Feedback Global, which has worked on food waste issues since 2013, stepped aside "as it became clear the recommendations would skirt around identifying and addressing the root causes of food waste -- profit-driven corporate agribusiness".

Research has already identified these root causes. Several studies have shown that large-scale food waste is an inevitable outcome of the competition, speed, and growth-driven market mechanisms which rely on overproduction to generate profit at the expense of people and the environment.

At the farm level, research by Feedback Global showed how unfair trading practices and power concentration in food systems allow major agribusinesses to transfer the risks and costs of food waste to farmers. The consolidation of the manufacturing and retail sectors ensures that large food

corporations control the conditions of trade, including prices, aesthetics, cancellation and volumes. Farmers, especially those growing monocultures, are therefore pressured to meet strict buyers' requirements, and over-produce.

Despite all this, the UNFSS showed a preference for public-private partnerships employing a voluntary "target-measure-act" approach to food waste reduction over regulatory intervention that can more effectively tackle food waste, but that may threaten profitability. While we applaud companies that are making investments in reducing waste across their supply chains, the UNFSS's limited framing of food waste downplayed the scale of transformation and solutions needed to achieve a genuinely sustainable and fair food system.

That so much food is being wasted while so many are going hungry is an undeniable sign that our economies of food are lacking justice. But it is misguided to suggest the problems of hunger and food waste can simply be resolved if we invest more in food redistribution.

The UNFSS presented the redistribution of surplus food as a "game-changing solution" to food waste, with the Global Foodbanking Network positioned as exemplifying best practice in charitable donation.

However, promoting the global expansion of charitable solutions like food banks cannot fix the underlying economic inequalities that produce hunger. In what food security expert Andrew Fisher calls the "hunger industrial complex", food waste, hunger and corporate interests collide to maintain the status quo. Beyond the laudable efforts of thousands of volunteers, extensive corporate sponsorship of the global expansion of food banking hints that this model is not about transforming and preventing wasteful systems, but primarily managing, perpetuating and even justifying excess.

Moreover, research shows that food charities in many countries often struggle to handle large-scale donations due to a lack of sufficient storage, cooling and transport infrastructure.

As the global advocacy group This Is Rubbish highlights in its Plenty To

Share campaign, tackling root causes of food waste and hunger means tackling global wealth inequalities while preventing further corporate control over our food sources.

Emily Mathiesen of FIAN International notes that "[the UNFSS] overlooked structural inequalities and human rights abuses that perpetuate food insecurity and hunger".

What would a genuinely fair and sustainable food system transition look like? Many farmers, Indigenous groups and social movements who boycotted the UNFSS are calling for policy mechanisms that support diverse and smaller-scale food production and stronger Right to Food legislation. Foregrounding the values of agroecology and food sovereignty, such policy envisages a circular food economy that protects farmer livelihoods and designs waste out, while valuing food as a right rather than a commodity.

We celebrate the inclusion of regenerative food futures, particularly agroecology and food sovereignty, in the UNFSS's messaging. Thousands contributed to pre-summit consultations with alternative food system visions that prioritise ecological boundaries, equitable food access, and democratic participation. But these must not become corporate greenwashing. We join other scholars, activists, and food actors in challenging the inertia and narrow lenses that prevent governments and businesses from addressing waste and hunger at their roots. We hope that future international dialogues will do this.

Tammara Soma is an Assistant Professor and Research Director of the Food Systems Lab at the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University.

Charlie is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, investigating environmentally and socially just food infrastructures in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Marie Mourad is a sociologist with almost 10 years of experience working as a food, waste, and sustainability expert and consultant for non-profits and governmental agencies in the United States and Europe.



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

This refers to a piece titled Kick-starting Rural waste management programme in J&K by Dr Raja Muzaffar (Kashmir Observer 26.10.2021). It is indeed great news that the Govt of J&K headed by Chief Secretary is monitoring this waste

management programme for rural areas.

Whenever I would see choked streams and water bodies in villages and plastic waste dumped in open fields and forests, I would always think who would clean this up? As there are no municipalities in villages, managing solid and liquid waste was indeed a big issue especially in those villages which have become al-

most Semi-Urban in the last one decade or so. I hope Mission Director Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin J&K Mr Tariq Hussain Ganai who is spreading this movement will start this work soon.

The Block Development Officers, DDCs, Sarpanches, Panches and Panchayat Secretaries need to be made aware of this flagship programme. The

Govt must hold a mass level awareness campaign on this issue involving social and religious leaders. If this work is done sincerely I am sure within a year or so rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir will look neat and clean.

Sajad Hussain Mir
Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar



Are Hydropower Dams The Clean Source Of Energy?

The dams are drivers of climate change as they emit methane that is over 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide, say studies.

Flavia Lopes
India Spend

In 2019, India declared large hydropower plants as “renewable energy” resources – earlier, only projects smaller than 25 MW were deemed as renewable energy resources – thereby providing incentives to developers such as easier debt repayment terms and funding for associated infrastructure like roads and flood defences.

A month before the United Nations Climate Change Conference began in Glasgow, more than 300 organisations across 69 countries urged governments not to use climate funds for “false climate solutions” such as new hydropower dams. They urged that these dams be removed from all the Nationally Determined Contributions targets pledged under the 2015 Paris Agreement that aims to combat global warming.

The appeal included 26 environment groups from India, which has been promoting hydropower projects in the belief that they are clean and sustainable. Environmentalists point to studies (here and here) conducted in the past decade that have shown that hydropower dams are major emitters of methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times-34 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

In 2019, India declared large hydropower plants as “renewable energy” resources – earlier, only projects smaller than 25 MW were deemed as renewable energy resources – thereby providing incentives to developers such as easier debt repayment terms and funding for associated infrastructure like roads and flood defences.

In August, the environment ministry also recommended restarting the construction of seven under construction hydropower plants in the Himalayan region that had been halted for various reasons.

Experts have, however, pointed out that hydropower dams pollute and also precipitate natural disasters. “The idea of clean, green, sustainable hydropower, as an alternative to coal, has no truth to it,” said Himanshu Thakkar from the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, one of the signatories to the appeal.

A Supreme Court-appointed committee looking into the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand’s Kedarnath area, which is believed to have killed 5,000 people, had asked for proper environmental studies on hydropower development in this “disaster-prone” region. It argued that these dams significantly amplify the damage caused by natural disasters.

India has 4,407 large dams, the third-highest number in the world after China (23,841) and the United States (9,263), with an installed hydroelectricity capacity of 46 gigawatt, which would suffice to provide nearly twice the daily peak power demand of Maharashtra. Most of this (112 gigawatt or 78%) is concentrated in the northern Himalayan states. Further, 38 large hydropower projects are under construction as of November 2020.

India has set an ambition of installing 450-gigawatt renewable energy capacity by 2030, so far it has installed 146-gigawatt that includes large hydro (31%), solar and wind capacity (69%).

Methane emissions

How do hydropower dams become sources of methane emissions? According to studies, decaying vegetation beneath the reservoirs generates emissions.

Also, rivers flowing into reservoirs deliver not only significant amounts of organic matter and sediment from upstream but also nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural activities, fertilisers and human waste, driving algae growth and providing more material for microbes to break down and convert to methane.

Research also shows that reservoirs experience more fluctuation in water levels than natural lakes, and a fall increases the amount of methane released into the atmosphere.

India’s push for hydropower projects as an environment-friendly option is thus misguided, said Shripad Dharmadhikari, an analyst at the research organisation Manthan Adhyayan Kendra. “But unlike coal where emissions are proportional to the capacity of the thermal plant, in hydropower dams, the methane emission differs between plants. In the Himalayas, one suspects that emissions would be high because a lot of environmental degradation has taken place because of dams.”

In a Lok Sabha reply in March, the Minister of New and Renewable Energy RK Singh claimed that one of the measures the government took to transition away from coal to clean energy was by declaring hydropower dams as renewable energy sources.

“In 2000, the World Commission on Dams, a global multi-stakeholder body established by the World Bank, was the first to investigate the effectiveness and performance of large dams around the world,” said Thakkar. “The body concluded that dams are not environmentally friendly and there are enormous financial, environmental and human costs associated with them.”

While methane emissions are second to carbon dioxide in contributing to global warming, its warming effect is 28 times-34 times that of carbon dioxide, we reported in August. Further, greenhouse gas emissions from reservoirs are 29% higher than previously estimated, and “much of the increase in emissions comes from previously unaccounted for methane degassing, a process where methane passes through a dam and bubbles up downstream”, according to an analysis by scientists at Washington State University and the University of Quebec at Montreal.

Socio-economic impacts

During the Chamoli disaster in Uttarakhand in February, large glacier chunks had fallen 1,800 metres from the Ronti Peak in the upper Himalayas and cascaded down the mountain. This had then mixed with rock and sediment, resulting in a massive debris flow that destroyed roads, bridges and hydropower dams. Nearly 200 people lost their lives in this disaster.

During the Chamoli disaster in Uttarakhand in February, large glacier chunks had fallen 1,800 metres from the Ronti Peak in the upper Himalayas and cascaded down the mountain. Photo credit: Anshree Fadnavis / Reuters

“Our understanding of what is ‘clean’ comes from a very limited and narrow notion that dams do not emit smoke,” said Dharmadhikari of Manthan Adhyayan Kendra. “But large dams have caused much larger social and ecological damage like deforestation, loss of biodiversity and displacement of communities that are often neglected.”

In India, a slew of run-of-the-river hydropower projects – which, unlike conventional dams, do not have large reservoirs and thus exert less strain on the immediate environment – were built from 2000 onwards. These were driven by subsidies for the private sector available through the UN Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty that commits states to reduce greenhouse gases, said Manshi Asher, a researcher at the Himdhara Environment Research and Action Collective.

Environment Research and Action Collective.

“Most hydropower plants in the Himalayan region fall in climatically vulnerable and ecologically fragile regions of Kinnaur, Chamba or Lahaul-Spiti. These run-of-the-river dam projects involve large-scale construction on both the surface as well as underground, with drilling machines [being used] on an already vulnerable terrain,” Asher said. “This has escaped environmental scrutiny at multiple levels.”

Large dams have also failed to rehabilitate the communities they displaced. The Pong dam, one of the several large dams built in India in the 1970s, the Hirakud dam, independent India’s first large dam project and the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada River are all projects where the rehabilitation of those displaced remains incomplete, we reported in December 2020.

Several projects have also been aborted or delayed because they are entangled in land conflicts, forest and environmental clearance issues, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, geological uncertainties, funds constraint, and so on, as per the Standing Committee report on energy submitted in Lok Sabha in August. The committee further noted that the time overrun in 24 hydropower projects currently under construction ranges from 12 to 189 months and cost overruns up to 473%.

“The Indian private sector has refrained from building hydropower plants because it is economically non-viable given the large investments,” said Thakkar. “But public sector units have been stepping in to carry on these projects.” In September, the public sector company NHPC Limited offered to take over four hydropower projects of 6,000 MW capacity from private companies.

Available options

The main purpose of hydropower dams was to balance the grid because of the intermittency of renewable energy supply. “A lot of existing hydropower dams are not performing that function,” said Dharmadhikar of Manthan Adhyayan Kendra. “They are running all the time rather than on peak load to balance the grid. With cheaper, more reliable and more environmentally benign alternatives such as hydrogen storage and battery storage systems available, we will not even require dams anymore.”

In October, the power ministry invited suggestions for creating a comprehensive policy on energy storage that would “absorb the large-scale integration of the renewable energy into the system during the coming years”. Renewable energy is intermittent and can cause the grid to trip, so backup power is needed and stored hydropower is being promoted as a potential solution.

India’s 1,115 ageing dams, over 50 years old by 2025, are becoming more expensive to maintain and less functional due to sedimentation. India must conduct a cost-benefit analysis of these dams, and conduct timely reviews of their operational and ecological safety, as well as the safety of those living downstream, we reported in February.

We sought comments from the Ministry of Power on why large hydropower dams were declared as renewable energy projects given their socio-economic and environmental costs. We will update when we receive a response.

Prisoner Dies, 30 Cops Injured In Clash At UP Jail

FARRUKHABAD: A prisoner was allegedly killed and about 30 policemen injured in a clash at a district jail here on Sunday after the death of another man due to dengue.

The prisoners allegedly hurled stones at the policemen and started a fire in the jail after hearing about the death of an inmate, identified as Sandeep Yadav, in Saifai Medical College due to dengue.

The police, however, claimed that another prisoner, Shivam, who died later, was also suffering from an ailment and lost his life while being taken to the hospital on Sunday.

But in a purported video which surfaced on social media, Shivam claimed before his death that he suffered a bullet injury.

The incident took place on Sunday morning, when the inmates started pelting stones at the policemen after they learnt about the death of Yadav, who was admitted to Saifai Medical College a few days ago as he was suffering from dengue.

The video purportedly showing Shivam claiming that he was hit by a bullet fired by the jailor while he was trying to close the gates of the barrack surfaced later in the afternoon.

"Around 8.45 am, the district jail officials requested for police force. On reaching the jail, senior officials learnt that one Sandeep Yadav, who was undergoing life imprisonment in a dowry case since 2012, had got infected by dengue on November 5. He was referred to Saifai Medical College, where he died yesterday (Saturday). Today, when tea was given to the inmates around 8.30 am, they attacked the deputy jailor.

"Subsequently, there was stone pelting and arson in the

barrack, and this was done by inmates with a criminal mindset. The police force then managed to control the situation. In this, 30 policemen were injured, and the deputy jailor, too, was attacked by the inmates," Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena told reporters earlier in the day.

A fire brigade had to be called after the inmates resorted to arson. Heavy police force was deployed to control the situation, police said.

Director General Jail Anand Kumar, when contacted, told PTI, "The DIG Jail is conducting an administrative inquiry. Judicial inquiry as per CrPC will also take place since an inmate has died in the incident in the jail."

District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Singh said the guilty will be punished after investigation.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) VP Tripathi arrived at the jail in the evening and said the entire matter will be investigated and action will be initiated against those found guilty.

Meanwhile, addressing the 'Janadesh Maharally' held in Ambedkarnagar district on Sunday, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav highlighted the incident, and said, "Those who were running the 'thoko neeti' (en-counter policy) did not know who is killing whom. Is this called law and order, when the son of the Union minister of State for Home, runs his vehicle over farmers. Today in Fatehgarh (Farrukhabad) jail, the inmates did not know whom to 'thoko', and they injured the (deputy) jailor."

ITBP Deploys Own Engineering Wing To Construct India-China Border Roads, Foot Tracks

NEW DELHI: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has taken a first-time decision to deploy its specialised engineering wing for constructing certain roads and foot tracks along the Line of Actual Control to speed up connectivity projects with its posts in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

The move, which was approved by the Union home ministry, comes amid a military standoff with China in the eastern Ladakh area.

Official sources told PTI that the border force, ITBP, has taken up the "challenge" to construct four out of the 32 roads under phase-II of the India-China Border Roads project and two out of the total 18 foot tracks sanctioned to it by the government.

They said the roads of varying lengths of about one to two kilometres, connecting ITBP border posts in the Himalayan ranges, are in the Ladakh region's 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China while the foot tracks, which are used by troops during patrols, are in the Arunachal Pradesh area.

The engineers and supervisors of the ITBP wing will "plan and monitor" the entire work, and a ground force comprising labourers and masons will be hired according to government norms, sources said.

Traditionally, road construction projects along these areas are carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other such agencies.

Officials said the engineering wing of the force, an essential component of the ITBP since its raising in 1962, has been roped in for the



task in order to speed up the border posts connectivity work.

In these high-altitude and remote areas, getting contractors and construction workers is not that easy and hence, the work of border road construction remains slow, an officer explained.

The government has stressed on the need to ensure connectivity through roads so that rations, transportation of troops and other logistics along the LAC can be easily moved. Therefore, this maiden attempt of engaging the ITBP engineering wing has been made, he said.

The ITBP engineering wing, re-structured over the years, is tasked to "take care of the construction of operational structures, including border outposts, residential and office buildings, solar lightings, power units and water heating systems, improvised micro-hydel power projects and green houses in snow-clad border areas apart from devising strategic defences around a border post."

Currently, the government has initiated the phase-II of the

India-China Border Roads (ICBR) project that covers several roads, foot tracks and border posts.

The first phase of ICBR was launched in 2005 under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and work on a number of roads, helipads and troop bases of this period is underway.

According to official data, 538.50 kilometres of road have been laid along the China border till November last year. Union Minister of State for Home affairs Nityanand Rai had recently said during the 60th ITBP raising day on October 24 that the process to sanction new border battalions for the ITBP is in the "last stages".

He was referring to the last year central government sanction of 47 new border posts and a dozen staging camps (operational bases for troops undertaking border patrol) to the mountain-warfare trained paramilitary force. The about 90,000 personnel-strong ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression.

Maha Fisherman Killed In Firing By Pakistan Maritime Security Personnel Off Gujarat Coast

DEVBHUMI: A fisherman from Maharashtra was killed and a crew member of his boat injured in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) personnel near international maritime boundary line in the Arabian sea off Gujarat coast, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident occurred around 4 pm on Saturday, he said.

"A fisherman from Maharashtra, who was on a fishing boat 'Jalpari', was killed after the PMSA personnel opened fire on him and other crew members on Saturday evening," Devbhumi Dwarka Superintendent of Police Sunil Joshi said.

There were a total of seven crew members on the boat, he said, adding that one of them also sustained a minor injury in the firing incident.

seven crew members, five of whom from Gujarat and two from Maharashtra," Joshi said.

The fishing boat was registered at Veraval in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat, he said.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended on Chamre's native Vadrai village in Palghar district of Maharashtra, after the local residents learnt about his death.

Chamre was in the cabin of the boat when he was hit by bullets, said Jayantibhai Rathod, the owner of the fishing boat.

"Three bullets hit him on the chest, following which he died. The captain of the boat was also injured in the indiscriminate firing by the Pakistani personnel," Rathod told some media persons after being contacted.



The body of the deceased fisherman, Sridhar Ramesh Chamre (32), was brought to Okha port on Sunday and an FIR was being registered by the Porbandar district's Navi Bandar police, which has jurisdiction across Gujarat over any incident that occurs beyond 12 nautical miles in the Arabian sea, he added.

"Chamre was on the fishing boat 'Jalpari', which had sailed from Okha on October 25 with

The deceased had been working on the fishing boat since the last three months at Diu Daman, he added.

Chamre's body is likely to reach Vadrai village in a couple of days, he said.

Meanwhile, the residents of Vadrai said that if at all the boat had entered the Pakistan waters, the crew members could have been held captive by the neighbouring country instead of being fired upon.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Alpine Girl' From

which started with Tulian Lake," she said.

Her local trek leader Syed Tahir, who accompanied her to most of the lakes, recalled his meeting with the Bengaluru women.

Tourists come here and want to do a long trek of three to four days but here was a woman, who had set a goal for herself, even before the start of the season, Tahir, an expert trek-ker, said.

"When I interacted with her and she told me her dream, I normally asked whether she had any medical condition. Moment she told me about some kind of arthritis problem in her knee, my eyes virtually popped out in surprise but all my apprehensions faded on seeing her determination," he said.

Tahir has been working in the trekking industry for nearly a decade.

Undoubtedly, she will be the first female who has completed 50 lakes in one season as no one has been able to achieve this kind of feat to the best of my memory of covering 50 Alpine Lakes in one season spread across the Kashmir valley," he said.

Mantasha Rashid, a Kashmir Administrative Service officer who runs a trust 'Women's Collective said, "Namratha is an inspiration to women. Despite living in a place with mountains and lakes, most Kashmiri women are not much into sports like trekking, mountaineering or swimming.

"At our voluntary women's initiative, we have been promoting outdoor activities for women and coming across Namratha was such a motivating moment," Rashid said.

Nandish feels nostalgic as she packs her bags for her return journey to her hometown but is happy that she is being referred to by the trekking community as 'Alpine Girl'.

"I have trekked around 460 kms over 31 days during this year's season and that too when I had a full-time job at hand," she said.

She said she wanted to do only 33 lakes as a birthday gift to herself but then "yeh dil mange more (the heart desires for more), I decided to reach the feat of 50 lakes."

Nandish, who was a hesitant traveller to Kashmir initially, is now reluctant to leave. "The people are so hospitable and warm here that I want to spend more and more time with them. I don't feel like going as the people here made me feel one among them," she said.

Today Nandish, after performing several solo trips to Alpine lakes, feels that she is a much more confident woman.

"During my last visit I suffered Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) as the height was around 13,000 feet at Murgan top. But then my inner strength and support of Tahir and my family made me achieve it.

She, however, carries a regret that not many women are involved in the trekking business in the Kashmir valley and also agreed with the thoughts shared by Mantasha that more and more participation should be encouraged.

"Kashmir is a wonderful tourist destination and involving more and more women as guides to trekking groups would definitely increase the number of women visitors into the valley and this can become an alternative business for the local women in the valley," she opined.

Policeman Shot

In the last month, 20 militants, 12 soldiers and 13 civilians were killed in different militancy related incidents, including encounters and targeted killings.

The killing of 13 civilians in a month, most of them non-locals, is the highest death toll in the last two years and the fourth-highest since 2012.

Majid Gojri, of Chattabal was the first civilian to fell to bullets on October 2.

Two days later, three more people were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Srinagar and Bandipora districts.

Among the deceased was prominent pharmacist Makhan Lal Bindroo, Virendra Paswan, a street vendor from Bihar and Muhammad Shafi alias Sonu, the president of Sumo Stand Hajin.

On October 7, Supinder Kour and Deepak Chand, both government school teachers, were killed in a brazen broad daylight attack in the Eidgah area of the Old city.

A day later, 28-year-old youth Parvez Ahmad of Larnoo, Kokernag was shot dead by the CRPF personnel at Monghal

Bridge in Anantnag district. Barely a week later, Arvind Kumar Sah, a street vendor from Bihar, was shot dead in Eidgah Srinagar, while Saghir Ahmad, a carpenter hailing from Uttar Pradesh, was killed in Pulwama district.

Raja Rishi Dev and Jogindar Rishi Dev, both natives of Bihar were shot dead by suspected militants a day later.

On October 24, Shahid Aijaz Rather, as per the police, was killed in cross-fire between militants and CRPF personnel in Babapora area of Shopian district.

The spate of targeted killings, mostly of non-locals, led to exodus of hundreds of migrant labours and their families hailing from north India's Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar states. The killing also prompted the security agencies to beef up security apparatus across the Valley.

In the last month also, 12 soldiers, including two junior commissioned officers (JCOs) were also killed in one of the longest and biggest search operations in border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where according to police an under-trial militant Zia Mustafa was also killed in exchange of fire.

The month of October also proved more deadly for militants.

The army, police and CRPF in joint operations killed 20 militants of various outfits in Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Bandipora and Pulwama districts.

Militant Arrested

by locals lying injured in an orchard this morning. The locals removed him to the hospital for treatment before the cops came to know about it.

Reports further said that Lone was listed as 'C' category militant and joined armed ranks last month.

Meanwhile, militants hurled a grenade towards a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) party in Kulgam district on Sunday, police said.

No loss of life or injury has been reported so far in the incident.

"At 6:25 pm, terrorists hurled a grenade upon 18 Bn CRPF party at Nehama chowk in district Kulgam which exploded on the roadside," a police official said.

Gulmarg Coldest

against 0.4°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 5.2°C against 4.6°C on the previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 3.1°C against 4.8°C on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 3.0°C against 2.0°C on the previous night, the official said.

Leh recorded a low of minus 7.1°C against last night's minus 6.6°C while mercury settled at 9.5°C, the official said.

The meteorological department has said that there was no forecast for any major snowfall for now.

LG Remembers Maqbool

& integrity of motherland will continue to inspire generations to come", Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Sherwani, a resident of Baramulla, had misguided the Pakistani raiders to a wrong path when he was asked to guide them to the road to Srinagar Airport. This delayed their march to the airport, providing time to the Indian army to reach the airfield and secure it. He was later killed by the angry raiders.

Srivastava Takes

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the General Officer has attended all important career courses including Defence Services Staff Courses Wellington (Tamil Nadu), Higher Command Course and National Defence College (USA).

He has an MSc in Strategic Studies and Masters of Philosophy to his credit. The General Officer has vast operational experience having served in intense Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorist environment in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and the North East, the spokesman said.

He said Maj Gen Srivastava has been awarded Sena Medal in 2011 while commanding his unit.

He has held various important staff appointments prior to assuming the command of the prestigious Counter Insurgency Force (Victor), Col Musavi said.

DGPs Conference

of them while playing different roles during the pandemic.

There have been considerable changes in the format, venue, topics covered, deliverables in the DGPs and IGP's conference since 2014. The Modi government has been organising it outside the national capital since then.

The number of business sessions and topics have increased significantly with focus on improving policing in service of people.

Before 2014, deliberations largely focused on national security matters only. Since 2014, these conferences have a twin focus of national security as well as core policing issues, including prevention and detection of crime, community policing, law and order, improving police's image, etc., the official said.

Earlier, the conference was Delhi-centric with officers coming together only for the conference. Residing in the same premises since 2014, over a period of 2-3 days, has served to build a heightened sense of unity amongst officers of all cadres and organisations.

Direct interaction of the top brass of police with the head of government has resulted in convergence of views on crucial challenges faced by the country and emergence of doable recommendations, the official said.

In the past few years, the topics have been selected after detailed discussions with the highest echelons of the police service.

Once selected, several iterations of presentations are made before committees of DGs in order to encourage participation and to incorporate ideas from the field and from younger officers.

As a result, all presentations are now broad-based, content-intensive and carry a set of cogent, actionable recommendations.

Since 2015, detailed follow-up of recommendations of past conferences is the norm and is the topic of the first business session, attended by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

Recommendations are tracked closely by the conference secretariat, led by the IB, with the help of nodal officers of the states.

From 2017 onwards, guest speakers were invited to share their knowledge and experiences with delegates.

Decisions made in the past few conferences led to significant policy changes leading to improvement of policing in

whip in August and arrested Bhat and three others for "selling" MBBS seats in Pakistan to Kashmiri students and using the money to support and fund militancy.

During the probe, it surfaced that MBBS and other professional degree related seats in many cases were preferentially given to those students who were close to family members or relatives of killed militants.

There were also cases where the quota allotted to individual Hurriyat leaders were sold to anxious parents who wished their children to have MBBS and other professional degrees in one way or the other.

More than 80 cases were studied in which either the students or their parents were examined for academic years between 2014-18.

Searches were undertaken in about a dozen premises in the Kashmir Valley.

The officials said that Bhat's brother Altaf Ahmad Bhat and another arrested person's brother Manzoor Ahmad Shah, were coordinating from across the border and facilitating the admissions.

The two, who have been named accused in the case, had exfiltrated to Pakistan during the early 1990s for arms and ammunition training and have settled down on the other side.

They played a key role on behalf of the ISI in facilitating matters pertaining to admissions under this category for this set of Hurriyat-linked persons in India as part of a nefarious design of pumping money into militancy and other militant related activities.

Corona Cases

Also, the officials said that the death toll remained 4440 in J&K—2177 in Jammu division and 2263 in Kashmir division, as no fatality was reported on Sunday.

The spike in daily positive cases in the Valley, half of them from Srinagar, have prompted the district administration here to declare more and more areas as micro-containment zones.

On Saturday, the district administration warned of localised lockdown in some areas besides strict action against the people violating the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines.

DC Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who carried out a whirlwind tour of marketplaces, also said that Srinagar could be the reason behind the start of the third wave in J&K, if people don't follow Covid-19 Safety Protocols, then

"Next two weeks are very critical for us as this period would decide if cases increase or decrease. If we start care from today, definitely cases would reduce," he had said.



انتقال پرملاں

پھول تو دودن بہار جاں فزا دکھلا گئے

حسرت ان غنچوں پہ ہے جو بن کھلے مر جھا گئے

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے محمد علی ابن غلام رسول متوسلہ لشکری محلہ نشاط سرینگر بروز سنہ ۱۴۰۲ ۸ نومبر ص ۸ بجے انتقال کر گئے۔ مرحوم جوان، نیک، ودیدار، متقی اور پرہیزگار انسان تھے۔ مرحوم جوان نے بطور مدرس دین کی کافی خدمت انجام دی ہے۔ خدا مرحوم و مغفور جوان کی مغفرت کرے اور جنت الفردوس عطا کرے۔ اور لواحقین کو صبر جمیل عطا کرے۔

مرحوم کا رستم چہارم بروز سوموار مورخہ ۸ ماہ نومبر ۲۰۲۱ الرضا امام بارگاہ فور شورور و نشاط میں علی الح ساڑھے ۷ بجے انجام دیا جائے گا، اور بعد میں دن بھر مرحوم کے گھر پر فاتحہ خوانی ہوگی۔

سوگواران

موبائل نمبر : 7051604015.....

Increased Temperatures Can Contribute To More Cases Of Kidney Disease: Study

Agencies

The world's largest study of the link between temperature changes and kidney disease has revealed that 7.4 per cent of all hospitalisations for renal disease can be attributed to an increase in temperature.

The findings of the study were published in 'The Lancet Regional Health - Americas' journal.

In Brazil - where the study was focused - this equated to more than 202,000 cases of kidney disease from 2000-2015.

The study, led by Professor Yuming Guo and Dr Shanshan Li, from Planetary Health at Monash University, for the first time, quantifies the risk and attributable burden for hospitalisations of renal diseases related to ambient temperature using daily hospital admission data from 1816 cities in Brazil.

The study comes as the world focuses on the impact of climate change at the COP26 conference in Glasgow from October 31.

In 2017, a landmark article in 'The Lancet' declared renal diseases a global public health concern, estimating that almost 2.6 million deaths were attributable to impaired kidney function that year. Importantly the incidence of death from kidney disease had risen 26.6 per cent compared to a decade previously, an increase that this study may indicate was, in part, caused by climate change.

The study looked at a total of 2,726,886 hospitalisations for renal diseases recorded during the study period. According to Professor Guo, for every 1 degree Celsius increase in daily mean temperature, there is an almost 1 per cent increase in renal disease, with those most impacted being women, children under 4 years of age and those 80 years of age.



The associations between temperature and renal diseases were largest on the day of the exposure to extreme temperatures but remained for 1-2 days post-exposure.

In the paper, the authors - who are also from the University of Sao Paulo - argue that the study "provides robust evidence that more policies should be developed to prevent heat-related hospitalisations and mitigate climate change. In the context of global warming, more strategies and policies should be developed to prevent heat-related hospitalisations."

The authors advise interventions should be urgently incorporated into government policy on climate change, including particularly targeting specific individuals, including females, children, adolescents, and the elderly, as they are more vulnerable to heat with regard to renal diseases.

"Moreover, attention should be paid to low- and middle-income countries like Brazil, where reliable heat warning systems and preventive measures are still in need," Professor Guo added.

Urban Planning Might Affect Cognitive, Motor Dev In Children: Study

Agencies

A new study from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), a centre supported by the 'la Caixa' Foundation, has provided further scientific evidence of the health benefits of well-designed urban planning.

The study published in Environment International suggests that the built environment, green space and air pollution can affect cognitive and motor function in children.

According to numerous studies, the urban environment can influence neurodevelopment from conception onwards, for example through exposure to air pollution. However, previous research has not evaluated the impact of multiple exposure groups simultaneously using an early-life exposome approach.

A team from the European HELIX project, coordinated by ISGlobal, set out to analyse the impact of 13 urban exposures on the cognitive and motor function of nearly 5,500 children in seven European urban areas-Bradford, United Kingdom; Nancy and Poitiers, France; Gipuzkoa, Sabadell and Valencia, Spain; and Heraklion, Greece-using data from the birth cohorts Born in Bradford, EDEN, the INMA Environment and Childhood Project, and RHEA, respectively.

The new study analysed urban residential exposures from pregnancy until age three years. The analysed factors include the built environment (building density, proximity to public transport, facility richness, etc.), natural spaces, and air pollution from nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Cognitive function (verbal and non-verbal abilities) and motor function (fine and gross motor functions) were assessed using validated tests when the children were four to five years old.

The findings showed that exposure to some built environment design factors, natural spaces and air pollution was associated with children's cognitive and motor function at five years of age. Specifically, higher exposure to greenness within 300 metres of the home during pregnancy was associated with higher verbal abilities. In contrast, greater connectivity (density of street intersections) and land-use diversity during pregnancy were associated with lower verbal abilities.

"To our knowledge, this is the first study to show the negative impact of some factors of the built environment on children's verbal abilities" commented ISGlobal researcher Anne-Claire Binter, lead author of the study. "In previous studies, the land-use diversity has been associated with positive health effects, so more studies are needed to interpret these results," she adds.

As for air pollution, in line with previous research, greater exposure to fine particulate matter during pregnancy was associated with lower scores on tests of fine motor function. "During pregnancy, the placenta and the blood-brain barrier, which protects the brain and spinal cord, are still immature



Beyond urban green space--the health benefits of which have already been demonstrated by previous research--our findings suggest that other urban characteristics should be considered when studying environmental exposures that may affect children's cognitive function

and verbal skills. In other words, "natural environments could have a beneficial effect on cognitive development by reducing the harmful effects of air pollution," explained study coordinator Monica Guxens, director of the INMA Project.

"Beyond urban green space--the health benefits of which have already been demonstrated by previous research--our findings suggest that other urban characteristics should be considered when studying environmental exposures that may affect children's cognitive function," noted Guxens. "The health of the population--especially the most vulnerable groups, such as children--should form the basis of urban planning," she concluded.

defence systems and provide only partial protection to the foetus against environmental pollutants," explained Binter.

The study also confirmed the mediating effect of air pollution on the association between green space

Genes may explain why anxiety is linked to gut disorder

Agencies

Anxiety often seen in people with gut disorder—irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)—could be explained by certain genes, say researchers.

IBS is thought to affect about one in 10 people and can cause distressing abdominal pain, bloating and bouts of constipation, diarrhoea or both.

Researchers from University said that they hope their discovery will stop IBS from being wrongly labelled as an emotional state or "all in the mind", BBC reported.

The study, published in the journal Nature Genetics, examined more than 50,000 individuals with IBS, comparing their DNA with that of

healthy people.

The team identified at least six distinct genetic differences that might, at least partly, explain this



link between the gut and the mind.

Most of these have roles in the brain, and possibly the nerves which supply the gut,

rather than the gut itself.

The same genetic make-up that puts people at increased risk of IBS also increases the risk

for common mood and anxiety disorders such as anxiety, depression, and neuroticism, as well as insomnia.

IBS is still poorly understood, even by some doctors, and may be incorrectly categorised as psychosomatic because of the overlap with anxiety and stress," Miles Parkes, a consultant gastroenterologist at Cambridge's Addenbrookes Hospital who led the gene research, was quoted as saying.

However, that doesn't mean anxiety causes IBS symptoms or vice versa.

"Our study shows these conditions have shared genetic origins, with the affected genes possibly leading to physical changes in brain or nerve cells that in turn cause symptoms in the brain and symptoms in the gut," Parkes said.

The discovery might ultimately help with developing better tests and treatments for IBS, the report said.

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However, that doesn't mean anxiety causes IBS symptoms or vice versa.

"Our study shows these conditions have shared genetic origins, with the affected genes possibly leading to physical changes in brain or nerve cells that in turn cause symptoms in the brain and symptoms in the gut," Parkes said.

The discovery might ultimately help with developing better tests and treatments for IBS, the report said.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DEVELOPMENT BUDGAM (PROJECT OFFICER WAGE EMPLOYMENT (ACD) BUDGAM DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from the Chartered Accountants of UT J&K who are empanelled with C&AG / UT AG to provide their services for conducting audit of MGNREGA for the year 2020-21 at District Level, Block Level :-

1. Presence will be given to those Chartered Accountants who are having their own offices at Srinagar.
2. The interested CAs can see the terms and conditions pertaining to CA Audit as per MGNREGA Operational Guidelines Para 12.7 (12.7.1 to 12.7.11). The same can be downloaded from Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India website: <http://nrega.nic.in>.
3. The rates should be quoted for audit of Accounts maintained at ACD office Budgam, 17 Blocks.
4. The quotations should reach in the office of Assistant Commissioner Development Budgam on or before 09/11/2021 at 02:00 PM and will be opened on the same day at 3:45 PM in the presence of interested bidders or their representative duly authorized by the Chartered Accountants.
5. Undersigned can reject the lowest quotations if it seems that low rates can affect the mandatory requirements of the audit as per MGNREGA Operational Guidelines para 12.7 (12.7.1 to 12.7.11)..
6. The audit should be completed within seven days from day of issue of orders.
7. The CA should submit the certificate from the concerned officer before finalization of final CA audit. The CA report should be countersigned by the concerned whether they are satisfied with report.
8. CA audit can be allotted to more than one CA keeping in view of the time for completion of audit.
9. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning and reason.

DIPK-12084/21

Additional Program Coordinator
MGNREGA Budgam

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No. 80-Kupwara/8840-48 of 2021-22 e-tendering DATED: - 03-11-2021

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of Completion in days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of P-bund near House of Mohd Shafi Mir upto House of Shabir Ahmad Mir at Ganie Mohalla Ward No.10	2.50	200/-	10 days	11-11-2021	"DEE"	District Capex Budget (UDS)
Position of AAA/TS : Accorded							

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-11-2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-11-2021 to 10-11-2021 (4.00PM)
03.	Bid submission start date	04-11-2021 from (10.00AM)
04.	Bid submission end date	10-11-2021 upto (04.00PM)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	11-11-2021 at (11.00AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions as per Circular issued by finance department vide No.A/Misc(2018)-III-895/Jt.22-12-2020

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

- a. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work
- b. The GST-3B for last Quarter (Quarterly return) and Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded, irrespective of date of Tender
- c. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration)
- d. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape E-Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (E-Challan) must be purchased after tender date and Boldly written Name of Work, Name of Contractor with contact No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority)
- e. In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor
- f. On Opening of financial bid the LI has to produce the Original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of E-Challan
- g. Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card , GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.
- h. It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in etendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as E-Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenderers/ bidders will be released only after surrender of E-Challan .
1. Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with .The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- j. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- k. The bidders are advised to get the genuineness of their enlistment cards from the issuing authorities. This is mandatory and bids are liable to be rejected in absence of the genuineness of enlistment card
- l. The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge
1. The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.
2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.
3. The tenderers are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.
- 18 The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not full fill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- 19 All other terms and conditions shall be the same as per detailed and stock issue rates of 2021-22 circular instructions issued by the higher authorities from time to time.
- 20 The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/specifications.
1. Cement = JKOPC Brand
2. Steel of all sorts = SAIL certified (The sail certificate shall have be produced /deposited in the division by the AEE concerned at the time submission of the work done bills). No extension in quantities/Cost is allowed in any case.

No: 8840-48
DT: 03-11-2021

DIPK-11988/21

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara

Rashid Khan Becomes Quickest To Reach 400 Wickets In T20 Cricket



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Afghanistan's premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan picked up his 400th wicket in competitive T20 cricket during the team's T20 World Cup 2021 match against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

The 23-year-old spinner reached the milestone when he bowled New Zealand opener, Martin Guptill, with a wrong'un in the ninth over of the Kiwi innings, even as the batter tried to go for a slog sweep at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Rashid achieved the feat in his 289th T20 match.

Only three other bowlers have crossed the 400-wicket mark in T20 cricket. Dwayne Bravo, the first to reach the feat in 364 matches, also became the first bowler to cross 500 T20 wickets. The West Indies all-rounder, who has just announced his international retirement from the format, has 553 wickets from 512 matches.

Two other bowlers that followed him to the feat are Imran Tahir (in 320 matches) and Sunil Narine (in 362 matches), both reaching the milestone earlier this year. Rashid also holds the record for most T20 scalps in a calendar year, having picked a staggering 96 wickets in 2018.

His economy rate of 6.34 is the second-best behind West Indies' Sunil Narine among bowlers who have played 200 T20 games. Earlier in the tournament, Rashid became the fastest bowler to take 100 wickets in T20 Internationals during Afghanistan's Super 12 match against Pakistan.

Rashid is only the fourth man, after Tim Southee, Shakib Al Hasan and Lasith Malinga, to achieve the milestone of 100 wickets in T20Is. Rashid picked his 100th wicket in only his 53rd match, surpassing Sri Lankan pace legend Lasith Malinga's previous record of reaching the landmark in his 76th game.

India Ousted As New Zealand Win Over Afghans

Kiwis seal semifinal place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI: India were sent packing from the T20 World Cup after a clinical New Zealand clinched a facile eight-wicket triumph over Afghanistan in their final Super 12 game to claim the last available semifinal spot here on Sunday.

India's slim hopes hinged on Afghanistan outstaging the Black Caps as that would have brought the Net Run Rate into equation and opened the doors for Virat Kohli's men, who only have themselves to blame for the ouster now.

The Kiwis were favourites to win on the day and they hardly put a foot wrong, chasing down a small target of 125 in just 18.1 overs to join England, Australia and Pakistan in the last-four stage.

Sunday's result renders India's final league engagement against Namibia inconsequential. The team was outplayed in its first two Super 12 matches by Pakistan and New Zealand, which proved to be its undoing.

The side did bounce back for wins over Afghanistan and Scotland but the damage done by the previous two defeats was far too much.

Kane Williamson's men, who won four of their five Super 12 matches, will be up against either England or Australia in the semifinals.

Openers Daryl Mitchell (17), caught behind by the Mohammad Shahzad off Mujeeb ur Rahman, and Martin Gup-till (28), who became Rashid Khan's 400th wicket in T20 cricket, were the only New Zealand wickets to fall in the afternoon match.

Williamson (40 not out, 42 balls, 3 fours) looked unhurried during his knock and his half-century partnership for the third wicket with Devon Conway (36 not out) guided the team home.

They negotiated the spin threat posed by Rashid, Mujeeb and Mohammed Nabi quite well to ensure that there was



no drama.

Conway got over a tentative start and hit Nabi for two boundaries in the 14th over to speed up the chase after a brief lull.

Earlier, New Zealand pacers, led by Trent Boult (3/17), dished out a clinical performance to restrict Afghanistan to 124 for 8 in their final Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Afghanistan, who needed to win to keep their semifinal hopes alive, reached the total mainly due to the efforts of Najibullah Zadran (73 off 48 balls). Zadran stood out in a rather tepid display by the rest of his team-mates.

He struck six fours and three sixes during his brilliant innings.

The Kiwi pace trio of Boult, Tim Southee (2/24) and Adam Milne (1/17) did not give anything away in the initial overs as the Afghan batters struggled to get going and in trying to force the pace of their innings.

Ish Sodhi (1/13) and Jimmy Neesham (1/24) were the other New Zealand wicket-takers.

Neesham conceded only two runs from the final over of the Afghanistan innings. The left-handed Zadran rescued Afghanistan with a 59-run fifth wicket stand with captain Mohammed Nabi (14). The team was placed at 56 for 4 in 10 overs when the two got together and dug their heels in.

However, there was very little support for Zadran from the other batters.

A flurry of wickets after the fall of Nabi, including that of Zadran, ensured that Afghanistan did not get to a middling score.

Boult sent back Zadran and Karim Janat (2) in the 19th over as the Kiwis took control of the match.

Afghanistan got off to a poor start, losing the openers inside the first four overs.

Shahzad (4) was the first to go in the third over when his uppercut off Milne flew to wicketkeeper Devon Conway, who leapt high to complete a good catch on the second attempt.

The wily Boult struck the second blow, getting Hazratullah Zazai when the batter's attempted flick took a leading edge for an easy catch to Mitchell Santner, leaving Afghanistan at 12 for 2.

Soon, it became 19 for 3 when Rahmanullah Gurbaz was leg-before to Tim Southee for 6.

Zadran and Gulbadin Naib (15) staged a mini recovery for Afghanistan with a 37-run partnership for the fourth wicket during which the former came up with some good shots.

However, leg-spinner Ish Sodhi broke through for the Kiwis when he had Naib chop a widish delivery on to his stumps.

Windies, Lanka To Play Qualifiers At 2022 T20 WC

Bangladesh, Afghanistan earn direct entry



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Bangladesh and Afghanistan were assured of a direct entry into the Super 12s in next year's T20 World Cup in Australia but two-time champions West Indies and former winners Sri Lanka will have to play the additional qualifying round.

The automatic qualifiers for the Super 12 stage next year were determined to be the winner and runner-up of the ongoing T20 World Cup, alongside the next six highest ranking teams.

Going into Saturday's action, the current top six teams on the basis of rankings -- England, Pakistan, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia -- had already done enough to ensure they would not slide out of those positions at the cut-off date of November 15.

Following West Indies' loss to

Australia in their final match on Saturday, the defending champions slipped to the 10th spot in the ICC T20 rankings, just behind Sri Lanka, while Bangladesh climbed to eighth.

Bangladesh had lost all their five matches in the super 12s but their home wins over Australia and New Zealand earlier this year helped them to make it through.

West Indies lost four of the five games which included the ignominy of being bundled out for 55 by England in their opening game, while Sri Lanka registered wins over Bangladesh and West Indies but lost to England, South Africa and Australia.

Besides West Indies and Sri Lanka, Namibia, and Scotland -- all of whom competed in the Super 12s -- will also start next year's tournament in the First Round.

A Bitter Pill to Swallow: Boucher On SA's T20 WC Exit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: South Africa head coach Mark Boucher says missing out on the semifinals of the T20 World Cup due to an inferior net run rate was a bitter pill to swallow.

South Africa emerged as a strong contender to qualify for the semifinals as the tournament progressed but despite winning four of their five matches, the Proteas failed to make the top four.

In their final group game they defeated Eoin Morgan and Co. by 10 runs which was not enough to seal a top four spot as England and Australia, who also had eight points each, had a better net run rate than the Proteas. "It's not successful because you're knocked out of the World Cup. It's a bitter pill to swallow" Boucher said at the post match conference.

"I think we played some very good cricket throughout the campaign, cricket under a lot of pressure as well after having lost our first game.

"We put in a lot of hard work in training, our chats were good. I think we beat the in-form side in white-ball cricket for a while now." Having lost the toss and asked to bat, South Africa needed to restrict England below 130 to qualify for the semis but weren't able to do so.

"It's a tough one for the guys in the changing room. We knew what we had to do today, the equation was very difficult for us to have to



get through," Boucher said.

"I just said to the guys just try control what we can control. Unfortunately, we can't control what other results are out there. We did the job today but it's quite bitter."

Boucher rued the missed opportunities South Africa could have capitalised on in the games against Australia and Bangladesh.

Boucher, however, was happy with the side's good show at the tournament, which he believes will stand them in good stead.

"This team know that is we are on a journey, upward curve, that we are learning along the way. You know, we by no means are a finished product," the 44-year-old said.

"These games will stand us in very good stead because as I said, every game we played was under pressure. That's one thing we probably haven't done very well in the past is playing big games, pressurised games, and we really did well in this particular competition."

T20 WORLD CUP

Pakistan Beat Scotland By 72 Runs To Top Group 2



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Pakistan beat Scotland by 72 runs to top Group 2 in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Sharjah on Sunday.

Babar Azam top-scored with 66 off 47 balls while Mohammad Hafeez smashed 31 off 19 balls and Shoaib Malik 54 not out off 18 balls as Pakistan post-

ed 189 for four. Scotland could only manage 117 for six in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan 189/4 in 20 overs (Babar Azam 66, Shoaib Malik 54 not out; Hamza Sharif 1/24, Chris Greaves).

Scotland 117/6 in 20 overs (Richie Berrington 54 not out; Shadab Khan 2/14).

T20 WORLD CUP

Abu Dhabi's Indian Chief Curator Dies Before NZ Vs AFG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI: The chief curator of the Abu Dhabi cricket stadium, Mohan Singh, died hours before Sunday's T20 World Cup game between Afghanistan and New Zealand.

Sources in UAE Cricket confirmed the unfortunate development to PTI though the cause of his death remains unknown. A detailed statement is expected to be released soon.

"It happened today and full details will be revealed when things are more clear. It is very unfortunate," said a source.

Mohan worked extensively with former BCCI chief curator Daljit Singh in Mohali before moving to the UAE in the early



2000s.

Daljit, who served Indian cricket for 22 years, was shocked after learning about Mohan's demise.

"He was a bright kid when he came to me. A very talented and hardworking person. He hailed from Garhwal and also remember him as a family man.

"After he went to the UAE, he used to come visit every time

he was in the country but I had not seen him for a while. Gone too soon and it is really tragic," Daljit said.

The International Cricket Council has sent its condolences to the family of Mohan Singh, the curator at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi who passed away earlier today.

At the request of Abu Dhabi Cricket, the ground staff and Mohan's family, game between New Zealand and Afghanistan in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 went ahead.

An ICC spokesperson said: "We are deeply saddened and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, Abu Dhabi Cricket and everyone connected with the event."

Neymar Scores 2 As PSG Win 3-2



AGENCIES

PARIS: Neymar scored twice as runaway league leader Paris Saint-Germain held on to win 3-2 at struggling Bordeaux after conceding late goals on Saturday.

After Kylian Mbappe made it 3-0 after 63 minutes, Bordeaux fought back to threaten a draw. Honduras striker Alberth Elis pounced in the 77th and a slick goal from striker M'Baye Niang, after swapping passes twice

with veteran forward Jimmy Briand, made it 3-2 entering injury time.

Although Bordeaux ran out of time, PSG's complacency and defensive lapses were again exposed -- just like in midweek when it conceded a late equalizing penalty to Leipzig in the Champions League.

The Brazil star Neymar put PSG ahead when he turned in Mbappe's cross from the right in the 26th minute and finished

from Mbappe's back-heel pass just before the break.

Mbappe made it 3-0 when he latched onto Georginio Wijnaldum's pass.

Lionel Messi missed the game for PSG as he nurses minor knee and hamstring injuries.

PSG is 10 points clear of second-place Lens and 11 ahead of third-place Nice, but Nice can ensure the gap stays at eight with a home win against mid-table Montpellier on Sunday.

Barcelona Draw 3-3 Before Xavi Take Over



AGENCIES

BARCELONA: Xavi Hernández had plenty to like and much more to lament about Barcelona's wild 3-3 draw at Celta Vigo on Saturday, when his soon-to-be team squandered a three-goal halftime lead.

Playing its final match under caretaker coach Sergi Barjuan before Xavi takes over as its new full-time manager, Barcelona roared out to a 3-0 lead after playing one of its best halves of the season. But injuries to 19-year-olds Ansu Fati and Nico González, who were having inspired performances, and the resurgence of its defensive doubts helped Iago Aspas lead

Celta back with his second-half brace.

Aspas capped the comeback with a second goal on one of the final kicks of the match when he scored from long range while Barcelona was hunkered down in its box begging for the final whistle.

Barcelona remained in ninth place in the Spanish league and with its horizon of success narrowing to simply securing a top-four finish to ensure its spot in the Champions League.

Real Madrid increased the gap between Barcelona and the top of the standings to 10 points after beating Rayo Vallecano 2-1. The draw in Vigo came hours after Barcelona announced that Xavi had agreed to sign through 2024.

Madrid Avoid Close Call, Win 2-1



AGENCIES

MADRID: Madrid needed Toni Kroos to excel on both ends of the field to ensure it took a two-point lead before second-place Real Sociedad visits Osasuna on Sunday.

The German midfielder volleyed in an assist from Marco Asensio in the 15th before Karim Benzema increased his league-leading tally to 10 goals from a well-placed pass by David Alaba.

Rayo rallied with substitute Radamel Falcao pulling one back in the 76th moments after Bebé had hit the post. Falcao only lasted 11 minutes before he was substituted for an apparent leg injury.

Madrid avoided a Barcelona-like collapse when Kroos saved a goal-bound shot by Óscar Valentín in final flurry by Raya that pushed the hosts into their box.