



P7 STATE

FOREST DEPT CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANTATION OF TWO CHINAR TREES

In a first of its kind achievement in the country, the J&K Forest Department has successfully completed the transplanting operation of two tall Chinars at the famous

P5

BE A NERDY MUSLIM WITH THESE PODCASTS

We thought videos were taking over. However, podcasts are not only followed but loved by many. Who would have thought that in the era of Instagram takeover by short videos and visuals, audio could still make a mark?



P8 SPORTS

KASHMIR'S WUSHU PLAYER SADIA TARIQ WINS GOLD IN MOSCOW

Kashmir Valley's star Wushu athlete Sadia Tariq has won gold at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship taking place in the Russian capital from February 22 to 28.



Quote!

Every word has consequences. Every silence, too

-Sartre

NEWS DIGEST

2 JKAS Officers Transferred

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory administration on Saturday transferred two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to an order issued by the **More on P6**

Shooting Stone Injures Driver

SRINAGAR: A truck driver was injured on Saturday after his vehicle was hit by a shooting stone along the Srinagar- Jammu highway in Ramban district. Waseem Ahmad Dar of Baramulla was injured when his vehicle was hit by a rolling boulder **More on P6**

Heroin Seized Near LoC In Poonch

JAMMU: A large quantity of heroin was recovered in Saturday near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The recovery was made by a joint party of police and Army from a forward village in Balakote sector, the officials said. **More on P6**

Police Starts Emergency Helpline

SRINAGAR: Police in Kashmir has launched 'Dial 112' helpline where citizens can call for police help, fire brigade and ambulance services, officials said on Saturday. The helpline has been launched under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) project, they said. "The citizens can **More on P6**

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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Kashmiris In Kyiv: 'Shifting To A Shelter To Stay Alive'

Zaid Bin Shabir

Kyiv felt like Kashmir for the very first time in all these years when Russia launched the air and ground assault on Ukraine to cleanse it of "Neo-Nazis". The blitzkrieg brought home the captive and crippled feeling of home ravaged by decades of conflict and mayhem. But before the belligerence came a causal war forecast from my Kashmiri friend: "I feel it's time for us to relocate into a shelter."

His words struck exactly fifteen minutes after the Russian President announced that he had effectively laid out a well-planned blue-print for a typical "Red-Army" invasion against Ukraine—a country that had held high hopes from its NATO friends. But going underground when offline classes were still operational felt strange. Both the campus wards and the citizenry were defying the sense of war in their backyard. That fake normalcy and denial is today holding us



hostage in the subways where air is reeking with gunpowder and the anxiety is gripping the commoners caught in the new

global order.

On the heels of Vladimir Putin's televised address and before hiding in the basement, my friend updated his WhatsApp status. "Shifting to a shelter to stay alive." But as a Kashmiri accustomed to escalation, Putin's speech and that WhatsApp status was akin to "dapaan", a Kashmiri word that had often proved to be a rumour. Unfortunately, with an unprecedented urge to disregard the possibility of a war and with each passing minute the

night unfurled Kashmir like scenes, in a far distant land. As a Kashmiri, born and brought up in the strife, it only takes one window-shaking boom to reach a state of alertness. I was already awake in my room in Kyiv, in western part of Ukraine, when another call buzzed my phone. It was the same fretful friend: "Russians have arrived...Let's shift..." But even before my Kashmiri compatriot could finish his alarming call, two consecutive explosions went off exactly at five in the morning. **More on P6**

...DELIMITATION EXERCISE

Panel Accepts Suggestions On Habba Kadal, Suchetgarh Seats

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As the Delimitation Commission is wrapping up its work in Jammu and Kashmir, the reports have suggested that the commission has redrawn some of its draft proposals as it has incorporated some changes that were earlier suggested by its five associate members. Pertinently, the commission has asked the associate members to submit their response by March 4 after which the final draft would be put in the public domain. Five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir -- Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi of the National Conference and Jugal Kishore Sharma and Jitendra Singh of the BJP -- are the panel's associate members. As per reports, the panel had met on Thursday and accepted most of the suggestions of the associate members after due consideration. Following the redrawn draft proposals, the commission has



opened the Poonch Assembly segment and instead reserved Rajouri for Scheduled Tribes and merged parts of RS Pura with Jammu South seat to rename it as RS Pura-Jammu South while restoring Suchetgarh constituencies. Earlier, RS Pura was reserved for SCs. RS Pura-Jammu South is now an open seat and Suchetgarh is the seventh constituency reserved for SCs. Six others are Marh, Akhnor, Bishnah, Samba, Kathua South and Ramnagar. The Delimitation Commission is understood to have acceded to the suggestion of both National Conference and the BJP to restore Habbakadal Assembly constituency in Srinagar district which has sizeable electorates of Kashmiri Pandits and restore the name of Inderwal seat in Kishtwar district from Mughal Maidaan. The commission has also redrawn boundaries of several other Assembly **More on P6**



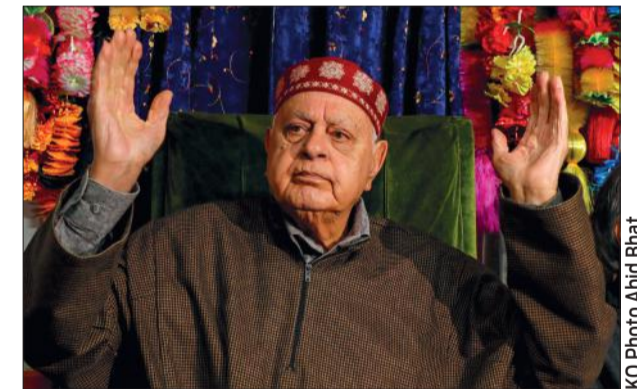
A girl student walks through a snow-covered road in the interiors of Dal Lake to attend her tuition classes. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Landslides Block Srinagar-Jammu Highway

Press Trust Of India

BANIHAL: Fresh snowfall and multiple landslides at different places on Saturday forced the closure of the 270 km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, officials said. The Banihal-Qazigund sector of the highway experienced overnight snowfall while landslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks were triggered by heavy rains at Rompadi-Banihal, Shalgardh-Wagan, Moumpassi-Ramsu, Panthiyal, Digdole, Marooq, Monkey Morh, Cafeteria Morh and Mehar in Raman district, the officials said. The closure of the highway left dozens of trucks stranded at different places, the officials said. With the **More on P6**

NC Will Contest Polls Whenever Held: Dr Farooq



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said his party will contest elections whenever they are held in Jammu and Kashmir but remained critical of the ongoing delimitation exercise. He was speaking after the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), comprising five mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, met at his residence here to discuss the fallout of the draft recommendations of the Delimitation Commission. "We will fight the elections, there is no doubt about it. We are not going to

run away from it but these (draft recommendation of delimitation commission) are the things which pain us," Abdullah told reporters. He reiterated his charge that the exercise was done to benefit the BJP with the ultimate aim of legitimising the revocation of Article 370 by the Centre in 2019. After the meeting, PAGD spokesman M Y Tarigami said they were not against delimitation as it was due in 2026, but added the ongoing exercise is "unconstitutional" as it is being done under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which has been challenged in the Supreme Court by the constituent of the alliance. "Our stand is **More on P6**

PAGD Urges Govt To Restore Special Status

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Saturday asked the Centre to go for a dispassionate appraisal of its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that such an exercise will lead to the realisation of gross violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the people. The PAGD released a white paper -- titled 'Betrayal' -- on Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of its special status, after a **More on P6**

Govt's Booze Boost To Kashmir Tourism

6 More Liquor Outlets To Open In Valley, 3 In Tourist Resorts

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to open six new liquor outlets in parts of the Valley, including this capital city in a bid to boost tourism. Kishore Singh Chib, Commissioner Excise Department told Kashmir Observer that under the new excise policy 2022-23, the government has decided to open new liquor outlets in tourist destinations. The tourist destinations where the liquor shops are likely to be opened are Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam, he said. Apart from the three prominent tourist resorts, the government has also identified two places in the Municipal Limits of Srinagar and one in Baramulla town of north Kashmir. The two new liquor shops of Srinagar will



be functioning in 'safer zones' It may be noted that the excise department has identified 51 new locations, 45 in different parts of the Jammu division and six in Kashmir Valley. According to official data of the Excise Department, out of total 224 liquor shops in J&K, 220 shops

are in Jammu province only. Sources told Kashmir Observer that in Jammu province; almost all the districts have liquor shops while Kashmir has four places where liquor is sold. Chib also assured safety from the government to the bidders who feel threatened in any way. "But our focus is that the new liquor shops will boost tourism and we will have quality liquor," he added. In 2021, he said, four bids for liquor outlets were approved by the department, however only two were made operational by the successful bidders—one on Boulevard and another in Cantonment Board, Sonwar area of Srinagar. On February 23, additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo announced the 'Excise Policy 2022-23' and said that the administration **More on P6**

DCs Asked To Speed Up Army's Land Acquisition Cases In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The divisional administration on Saturday directed the Deputy Commissioners to fast track pending land acquisition cases of Army in this winter capital. According to an official spokesperson, the Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raghav Langer on Saturday reviewed the status of land acquisition, requisition cases of Army here at a meeting of Deputy Commissioners, Senior Army officers and concerned departments. He said threadbare discussions were held on the land acquisition requisitions for defence purposes. During the meeting concerned DCs apprised the Div Com about the present status of each land acquisition case pending in the districts. "The Div Com sought case wise details and directed the concerned officers to expedite

and complete the process at the earliest. He also asked the revenue officers to prepare revenue papers of the land, conduct joint verifications (where pending) for early resolution," the spokesperson said. Langer, he said, also directed for maintaining inter department coordination for expeditious clearance of cases. In the meeting, the spokesperson said that it was informed that the Housing and Urban Development Department has an online portal for issuance of Building permissions. The Div Com, he said, asked Army authorities to provide details of the officers dealing with land cases so that the Local Military Authorities (LMAs) are taken on board while giving the building permissions. The spokesperson said that the Additional **More on P6**

WE WILL FIGHT THE ELECTIONS, there is no doubt about it. We are not going to run away from it but these (draft recommendation of delimitation commission) are the things which pain us."



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Sultan of Brunei & His Fairy World

7,000 luxury cars, gold-plated private jet, a palace with 1700 rooms & more, take a look at the lavish lifestyle of Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei

GQ India

Let's start with introductions about Hassanal Bolkiah before we get into the extravagant luxuries of the multi-billion dollar man. The Sultan of Brunei's extended name is Hassanal Bolkiah ibni Omar Ali Saifuddin III and he is the 29th and current Yang di-Pertuan (Sultan) of Brunei. He also holds the position of the Prime Minister of the country since they achieved independence from British rule in 1984. While the Sultan is an educated man with a degree from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom, he is mainly known for his outrageous net worth. Bolkiah is also the longest-reigning monarch after Queen Elizabeth II and celebrated the golden jubilee (50 years) of his reign in 2017.



Gold-plated private jet

According to The Daily Mail, the Sultan bought himself a Boeing 747 aircraft, which is priced at around \$400 million, close to Rs 3,000 crore. Interestingly, he also added accessories worth another \$120 million, which included things like a gold washbasin. There are also reports that Bolkiah gifted his daughter an Airbus A340 for one of her birthdays.

7,000 luxury cars

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah owns 7000 luxury cars, which are said to be worth about Rs 341 billion.

Sultan has 600 Rolls Royce and 300 Ferraris in his collection of cars. Interestingly, in the 1990s the Bolkiah family accounted for almost half of all the Rolls Royce sold in that decade. If reports are to be believed, when Hassanal Bolkiah was younger he would race Ferraris late in the night in the capital city of Brunei.

A palace of gold

Istana Nurul Iman Palace, the Sultan's residence, was commissioned in 1984 to mark the achievement of their independence (from British rule). Spreading over an area of 2 million square feet, it is also

the world's largest palace in the Guinness Book of World Records. The dome of this palace is studded with 22-carat gold. The Istana Nurul Iman Palace of Hassanal Bolkiah is worth more than Rs 2550 crores. The palace has more than 1700 rooms, 257 bathrooms and five swimming pools. Apart from 110 garages, there are air-conditioned stables for 200 horses.

A private zoo

According to Insider, the Sultan also has a private zoo, which has about 30 Bengal tigers and is one of the entertainment resources for the visitors of Hassanal Bolkiah.

The zoo contains falcons, flamingos and cockatoos which can play basketball, ride bicycles, sing, talk, and imitate other animals.

A special open-roof Rolls Royce

The Sultan of Brunei got a custom designed Rolls Royce, featuring an open roof to accommodate the umbrella on top of the car. Naturally, the car was decked in gold plating from the grill to the tires.

According to Insider, the Sultan also has a private zoo, which has about 30 Bengal tigers and is one of the entertainment resources for the visitors of Hassanal Bolkiah. The zoo contains falcons, flamingos and cockatoos which can play basketball, ride bicycles, sing, talk, and imitate other animals.

از ریاست است ناک با اجلاس انجمن تھریسٹریٹ دیو ایل درخواست منجانب: یاسر علی الدین ولد غلام نبی الدین صوفی ساکنہ انڈیا تحصیل و ضلع است ناک بھڑنہ حصول RBA سر قلیت۔

استھارہ مراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بھڑنہ حصول RBA سر قلیت دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکھارواں ہے۔ پڑاوی حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کتبہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد اکرم ولد محمد عبدالصوفی	75 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
2	مسماۃ حاجرہ بیگم محمد اکرم	70 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
3	غلام نبی الدین ولد محمد اکرم صوفی	52 سال	مزدوری	1000/=
4	مسماۃ ظہورہ بانو زینب غلام نبی الدین	50 سال	گھریلو کام	
5	عصمت جان دختر غلام نبی الدین	22 سال	کسیدہ کاری	3000/=
6	عصما جان دختر غلام نبی الدین	20 سال	کسیدہ کاری	3000/=
7	یاسر علی الدین ولد غلام نبی الدین	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
8	بسما جان دختر غلام نبی الدین صوفی	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کتبہ 08 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سائل کے کتبہ میں کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم ہو جہد نہیں ہیں۔ کتبہ پر بحث کو حد میں رکھنا دعویٰ 1 کنال موجود ہے۔ اس طور سے کتبہ پر بحث کی تمام ذری اور غیر ذری سے سالانہ آمدنی 222000 ہزار روپے تک ہے۔ لہذا سر قلیت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران ہفت روزہ میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار rna

از ریاست دیلگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام مشمول درخواست منجانب: شافیہ فضل رودیہ فضل وجاسمینہ فضل و ایم ارکان ساکنہ فتح پورہ تحصیل و ضلع است ناک بھڑنہ حصول RBA سر قلیت۔

استھارہ مراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بھڑنہ حصول بیک وارڈا رپارٹ قلیت دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکھارواں ہے۔ پڑاوی حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کتبہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد افضل ت ولد غلام محمد بٹ	62 سال	ریٹائر ملازم	LPC
02	مشینہ بانو زینب محمد افضل بٹ	54 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	شافیہ فضل دختر محمد افضل بٹ	28 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	رودیہ فضل دختر محمد افضل بٹ	30 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	جاسمینہ فضل دختر محمد افضل بٹ	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	ایم ارکان افضل ولد محمد افضل بٹ	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کو کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور کتبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 607000 ہے۔ سب سے بڑی نقدیٹ مکرورہ کی اجرائی میں کوئی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ہفتہ کے اندر دوران ہفت روزہ میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار rna

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir



- Scholarship Name 1: Ashoka University Young India Fellowship 2022-23**
Description: Ashoka University Young India Fellowship 2022-23 is an initiative for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
Eligibility: Open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold a recognised Undergraduate or Postgraduate degree in any discipline. The candidates must have an above-average academic record combined with extra-curricular engagement with strong written and verbal communication skills.
Prizes & Rewards: Up to 100% tuition fee waiver
Last Date to Apply: 15-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/YIF9
- Scholarship Name 2: Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship 2022-23**
Description: Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship 2022-23 is an initiative for postgraduate students offered by Aga Khan Foundation. The objective of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to outstanding students from selected developing countries who have no other means to finance their studies.
Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals below 30 years of age and are currently pursuing their postgraduate degrees.
Prizes & Rewards: Tuition fees and living expenses
Last Date to Apply: 21-03-2022
Application mode: In person - from AKF offices or Aga Khan Education Services/Boards
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GKEI
- Scholarship Name 3: INAE Young Engineer Award 2022**
Description: INAE Young Engineer Award 2022 is inviting applications from young engineers having strong potential for future professional growth impact in any branch of engineering and recognizing their outstanding achievements/contributions in it.
Eligibility: Open for candidates below 35 years of age who holds a first tertiary degree in Engineering/Technology as on 1st of January 2022.
Prizes & Rewards: A cash prize of INR 1 lakh and a citation
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NAE9

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

FRESH NIT NO 311(3rd Call of NIT 274) OF RNB/KHANABAL/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/22607-17 DATED 24/02/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of R Wall at Pranbawan Masjid Sharief Ward no 09 at MC Mattan	2.00	200	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/03 of 2021, Dated: 27.04.2021	DEE Class Only

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-02-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 24-02-2022 (03:00PM) To 02-03-2022 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 24-02-2022 (03:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 02-03-2022 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	03-03-2022 (10:30AM)

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date).
- All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration 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 the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
- 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 in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. 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.
b. 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.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), CDR/FDR/BG (Performance Security) and other relevant bid documents including Bid Security Declaration Form shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er Qazi Javeed Amin) Executive Engineer, R&B Division Khanabal
DIPK-18724/21

PRESS RELEASE



Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag under ministry youth affairs and sports Govt. of India in calibration with friends' youth club organized District Art and Culture Programme at Akingam w.e.f 14-02-2022. In which different youth clubs and Mahal Mendals present their cultural items to promote the piece and dignity among the peoples near about 136 youth leader and local villagers from nearby area attended the programme the peoples of this area appreciated the NYKS from organized such type of programmers

MIAN & BAKSHI FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that Mrs. Mehbooba Mian W/O Mian Ghulam Mohi-ud-din R/O BB Cantt. Sonwar, left for heavenly abode on Friday, 25th Feb, 2022. Congregational Fataha Khwani will be offered on 28th Feb, 2022 (Monday) at 11AM at our ancestral graveyard Mazaara-e-Salateen, Hazrat Baha-ud-din Ganjibaksh.
BEREAVED
Mian Ghulam Mohi ud din
Dr. Suhail Mian (son)
Dr. Seema Mian (daughter)
Showkat Bakshi (brother)
Tabasum kamili (daughter in law)
Dr khurshid Ahmed (son in law)
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DIPR Organizes Musical Event At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR: The Cultural Unit Srinagar of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organized a musical event at the Cultural Unit Hall of Joint Director Information Kashmir, here.

On the occasion, the artists of the Cultural Unit presented some patriotic songs which were appreciated by the audience. Music composer Ghulam Muhammad Bhat and senior artist Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Khanday performed in their folk style.

Officers and employees of the Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir Division were present on the occasion.

Pedestrian Killed In Panzinara Accident

Agencies

Srinagar: A pedestrian was killed in a road accident in Panzinara area of Srinagar outskirts on Saturday.

According to official sources a pedestrian identified as Bashir Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir of Dandergpora Panzinara was hit by Wagon-R vehicle at Panzinara area.

They said he was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. Meanwhile, local police has registered a case in this regard and started investigations. (KNO)

Ahead Of School Reopening, Sgr School Pushes Students To Wall

Agencies

Srinagar: As the educational institutions are set to reopen after nearly three years in Jammu and Kashmir from next month, a private school here in Srinagar has pushed the students as the parents to the wall as it has issued a notification, claiming that the transport facility cannot be provided for the month of March.

Parents, who have enrolled their wards in Iqbal Memorial Institute (IMI) Syed Abad, Bemina, Srinagar said the school management has issued a notification in which it has stated that the transport facility for the month of March-2022.

They said that the schools are reopening after the gap of nearly three years and it is unfortunate that the students are being deprived of the facilities at the institute, adding that there should have been proper arrangements from the School management ahead of reopening of the educational institutions, but one fails to understand that for what purpose the parents are being asked to pay hefty amount as monthly fee.

"The school administration has been caught napping and the absence of transport facility is certainly going to add to the miseries of the parents and students as well," they said. (KNO)

NC, JKPCG Grieved Over The Demise Of Syed Zeeshan Fazil

Agencies

Srinagar: Political parties including National Conference and Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Saturday expressed grief over the demise of noted broadcaster Syed Zeeshan Fazil.

National Conference (NC) President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief over the sad demise of noted broadcaster and former deputy director of Door-darshan News Syed Zeeshan Fazil, who breathed his last the other day.

In his condolence message Dr Farooq said, Zeeshan will be remembered for his professional competence and dedication in the field of public broadcasting. During his decades-long career, he played a stellar role in many capacities, earning him fame as an outstanding translator, versatile poet, and distinguished professional in the field of public broadcasting.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCG) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir Saturday expressed profound grief over the passing away of Syed Zeeshan Fazil.

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DEE class contract card from R and B office if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the circle of super intending engineer R and R office Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Mir
 S/o Mohammad Maqbool Mir
 R/O Kakothal Brannar kreeri

ashk



DHSK Holds Felicitation Ceremony For Covid-19 Warriors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Medical Block Zadibal under the aegis of Directorate Health Services Kashmir today organized a felicitation ceremony in Srinagar to appreciate Covid warriors who have been at the forefront of fighting the pandemic for more than two years now.

Spokesperson DHSK, Dr Mir Mushtaq said the program was organized by PHC Zadibal to appreciate the concerted efforts of health workers in mitigation of Covid-19.

Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather presided over the function. He hailed the contribution of Covid warriors and said that they were at the forefront at difficult situations and helped in

the mitigation of the virus. He said health care workers should continue their good work which has been recognized by the administration of Union Territory of J&K and Union Government.

On the occasion, the director said that schools will reopen as announced already and the government was prepared for it at all levels.

"We are ready for the opening of the schools. SOPs are to be followed from home to reaching school. SOPs should be followed in school buses. At the school entrance, there would be thermal scanning," he said.

"Use of sanitizers and cleanliness will be there. There would be random testing. If any student tests positive they will be properly

isolated," he said.

He also thanked the media for informing people about the Covid-19 pandemic, vaccination adding that there has been a good response to vaccination in the 15-17 age group.

"Vaccination in the age group of more than 60-year age with co-morbidities stands completed. Vaccination is important to mitigate the disease," he said.

He said in every district, a pediatric ICU is being set up along with pediatric wards. Now every district has an oxygen facility and there will be tertiary-level treatment now available at the doorstep.

"People of Kupwara and Kulgam will have these facilities in their districts. Within two months, the en-

tire system will get started and this is a game-changer," he said.

The director also urged people not to lower their guard and continue to maintain Covid-19 appropriate behavior.

On the occasion Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Srinagar, Dr Jameel Mir, Zonal Medical Officer (ZMO) Zadibal, Dr Rubena besides officers and officials of the health department were present on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering CMO Srinagar, Dr Jameel Mir also appreciated the work of Covid-19 warriors and wished them all the best for future endeavors. ZMO Zadibal, Dr Rubena presented the welcome address while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr Fatima of Zadibal block.

Forest Dept Conducts Successful Transplantation Of Two Chinar Trees

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25: In a first of its kind achievement in the country, the J&K Forest Department has successfully completed the transplanting operation of two tall Chinars at the famous Char Chinar, Dal Lake Srinagar to restore its erstwhile glory.

Acting upon the directions of Lt. Governor and instructions of Chief Secretary, J&K, Forest Department formulated a strategy in the month of October, 2021 in consultation with technical experts of Floriculture Department, LCMA and Scientists of SKUAST and JK-FRI for restoration of 'Ropa Lank' in Dal Lake popularly known as Char Chinar, by transplanting tall Chinars - the State tree of Jammu & Kashmir.

It was given out that only one healthy mature tree exists on spot requiring no treatment. The decaying second tree was given silvicultural /chemical treat-



ment for development of existing root suckers into a substitute tree. Two new tall transplants were required to be planted at the 3rd and 4th tree sites for which two large pits with 6 feet diameter and 5 feet depth were dug out in advance before onset of winter. Infected soil was removed and good quality soil brought from outside the Dal Lake for the purpose.

Two candidate transplants with height of about

25 feet and girth of 28 inches each were finally selected at Dal Foreshore road, where they were experiencing stressful conditions. After obtaining legal permission for their removal, the two transplants were systematically dug out along with roots and balls of earth and lifted by using a long arm hydraulic Crane. They were transported to Char Chinar on a large barge pulled by a tug boat.

LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Special demolition drive was today carried out by Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LC&MA) in the areas of Nigeen, Peer Taqiya, NIT near Nigeen Club and Saida Kadal Ashaibagh.

During the drive, 03 single storey houses, 04 2nd storey houses were demolished and some truckloads of illegal earth filling were seized/ removed.

The demolition drive was accompanied by NT LC&MA, police contingent from PCR Srinagar and territorial police headed by SHO Nigeen.

Meanwhile, a total of 30 illegal constructions have been demolished so far in the month of February 2022 and 05 FIRs have been lodged against the violators in the concerned Police stations falling under the ambit of LC&MA jurisdiction.

Public Notice

My name and Residence has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing DL no: JK0520000000311 as Ab Rashid Shah R/o Nowpora Anantnag while the correct name & address is Ab Rashid Seh R/o Nowpora Shahabad Anantnag which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AB RASHID SEH
 S/O GH MOHD SEH
 R/O NOWPORA SHAHABAD ANANTNAG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to add the caste "Bhat" with the name of my daughter Maheen studying in Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Rajbagh, Srinagar in class 8th Section "D" Roll No. 22. Anyone having objection, if any, can approach the concerned school within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Suhail Rasool Bhat
 R/O Rawalpura, Harco Lane
 Srinagar

x

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FLOOD MECHANICAL DIVISION Baramulla

Khawaja Bagh

Telefax No. 0195-235275e, mail Id: xenfmdbaramulla@gmail.com

Subject: Repairs to Rear Stabilizer spud casing and Bucket of Water Master Classic III
 Ref:- This office Short term e-NIT No:31 of 2021-22 Dated:19/02/2022

Due to no response for the work put to tenders vide this office e-NIT No. referred to above, the critical dates are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission / Document Download / Sale end date	02/03/2022
2	Date and time of Bid opening	03/03/2022

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original e-NIT.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 Flood Mechanical Division,
 Baramulla

No. FMD/TS/2467-71
 Dated:- 26/02/2022

DIPK-18761/21

DIAL-EMMA

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- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
 CALENDAR
 25- Rajab
 1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 40
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4:45
Magrib	6:28
ISHA	7: 48

This Day In History

- 1860 - Abraham Lincoln makes a speech at Cooper Union in the city of New York that is largely responsible for his election to the Presidency
- 1879 - Constantine Fahberg discovers saccharin (artificial sweetener)
- 1881 - Battle at Amajuba: South African Boers vs British army under General Colley
- 1900 - Battle at Pietershoogte during the Boer War
- 1908 - Sacrifice fly adopted (repealed in 1931, reinstated 1954)
- 1929 - Turkey signs Litvinov-pact
- 1930 - Bouvet Island declared a Norwegian dependency
- 1938 - Britain & France recognize Franco government in Spain
- 1939 - France recognizes Franco's regime in Spain
- 1942 - J S Hey discovers radio emissions from Sun
- 1949 - Chaim Weizmann becomes 1st President of Israel
- 1950 - General Chiang Kai-shek elected president of Nationalist China
- 1958 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1961 - The first congress of the Spanish Trade Union Organisation is inaugurated.
- 1962 - South Vietnam President Ngô inh Di m's palace bombed by dissident air pilots in a failed assassination attempt
- 1967 - Antigua & St Christopher-Nevis become associated states of UK
- 1967 - Dominica gains independence from England
- 1968 - CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite delivers a scathing editorial on America's chances of winning the Vietnam War
- 1969 - General Hafez al-Assad becomes head of Syria via military coup
- 1972 - US President Richard Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai issue Shanghai Communiqué
- 1976 - Final meeting between Mao Zedong and Richard Nixon
- 1980 - Israel & Egypt exchange ambassadors
- 1987 - Donald Regan resigns as White House chief of staff
- 1987 - NCAA cancels SMU's entire 1987 football schedule for gross violations of NCAA rules regarding athletic corruption
- 1988 - Bonnie Blair (US) wins Olympic 500m speed skating in record 39.1
- 1988 - Gulfstream G-IV goes around the world 36:08:34
- 1989 - German war criminals Aus der Funten and Fischer freed in Holland
- 1995 - Car bomb explodes in Zakho, North-Iraq (54-80 killed)
- 1998 - Apple discontinues development of the Newton computer
- 1998 - Britain's House of Lords agrees to end 1,000 years of male precedence by giving a monarch's first-born daughter the same claim to the throne as any first born son
- 1999 - Korea International School is founded by Soon-Il Chung
- 2004 - A bombing of a Superferry by Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines worst terrorist attack kills 116
- 2007 - The Chinese Correction: the Shanghai Stock Exchange falls 9%, the largest drop in 10 years
- 2009 - Statistics Finland informs that Finland's gross domestic product diminished by 1.3% in the last quarter of 2008 from the previous quarter
- 2012 - Wikileaks begins disclosing 5 million emails from private intelligence company Stratfor

From KO Archives

Replace Geelani, APHC Tells Jel

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR - The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) is understood to have formally asked the Jama'at-e-Islami to replace its firebrand leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, as its member in the multi-party alliance.

According to reliable sources, the APHC has forwarded a communication to the Jama'at Ameer, Ghulam Muhammad Bhat. In this connection, it requested Bhat to replace the party's member as his presence was proving to be a stumbling block in the Hurriyat's proposed visit to Pakistan, sources said.

However, when contacted, Bhat refused to comment on the report. An earlier report had said two Hurriyat leaders had approached him asking for Geelani's replacement either by himself or someone else. A formal letter has been sent now, sources said.

The centre's reservations to issue pass part to Geelani was one of the reasons for delaying the proposed Hurriyat leaders' visit to Pakistan. The government of India would, perhaps, have no objection to Bhat accompanying the APHC team, he already has a passport.

However, the militants in Pakistan controlled Kashmir have insisted on Geelani's inclusion in the proposed Hurriyat team for Pakistan visit.

(Kashmir Observer, 27 February, 2001)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



"It is insanely surreal to realize that mainstream news outlets—and settler politicians alike—possess the linguistic capacity to call occupation by its name. A capacity that is made staggeringly absent in the context of occupied Palestine, often under the guise of objectivity"
@m7mdkurd (Mohammad El Kurd)

"Poland welcoming Ukrainian refugees but blocking and detaining refugees from Syria, Yemen and other non-European nations goes on to speak volumes about how West is diabolical about human rights, treating non-Europeans as children of lesser God"
@khuwar_achakzai

"If you live in a NATO state, the anti-war position is the complete dissolution of NATO. The potential for further direct NATO engagement is where the potential for further cataclysmic suffering lies—as objective history reveals, NATO is capable and willing for such engagement. So if you live in a NATO state, stand with the oppressed working class of Ukraine and Russia by standing against the ruling capitalist class of your own state. An anti-war position is by necessity an anti-imperialist position—peace can never live until imperialism meets its end"
@JamieMKirkland

"Opposing war without opposing the conditions that produce the war is futile resignation to status quo"
@Burhan Qureshi

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Israel's World

The utter impunity with which Israel has unleashed its war machine on the defenceless Gaza population underscores once again the exclusive position Tel Aviv enjoys on the horizons of world powers who have vowed to bring peace and democracy to the planet.

As far as the terror wreaked by this rogue state is concerned, the self-appointed guardians of international justice have blinkered eyes, or else willfully choose to ignore the enormity of the transgressions committed again and again by successive Israeli regimes. The just world order that some in the international community would like to usher in evidently excludes Israel from its purview as it is left free to perpetrate atrocity upon atrocity on the Palestinian people. What escapes the custodians of global peace and justice is that the existence of Israel itself is in total contravention to all norms of morality. But even after the Palestinians have relinquished their legitimate and exclusive right to the lands from which they have been dispossessed, they are being targeted as if their persecutors would be satisfied with nothing less than their extermination.

The positions the world powers, mainly the US, have taken in the face of wanton slaughter of children in the Gaza Strip evoke unadulterated revulsion at the humanity, or rather the lack of it, of those who would lead the world. After their spoken and unspoken complicity in the Gaza terror, would-be-liberators of mankind are not left even with the fig-leaf of morality that would give them the authority and the stature to lecture to the world.

The latest flouting of all international norms by the Jewish state is tied to the tussle for power at home, and the cowardly military campaign in Gaza has already sent the popularity graphs of foreign minister Tzipi Livni and defence minister Ehud Barak soaring.

But the real reckoning will come when the ground assault, launched on Saturday, begins to exact its toll. The weeklong aerial bombardment posed little risk to Israeli personnel, but a ground invasion where they would come face to face with Hamas fighters would be a different cup of tea altogether. Livni and Barak, both banking on the squashing of Gaza as a ticket to the top job in the coming elections, can put off their celebrations as the experience in earlier campaigns in Lebanon could serve as a lesson. The Palestinian are long accustomed to losing loved ones to Israeli aggression, but the Israelis, like the US, are highly sensitive to sons and brothers coming home in body bags. And that is where the public tide could turn for the prime ministerial hopefuls.

Just as it happened in Lebanon, the Jewish state cannot be sure of meeting its military objectives, but the bloodshed it has wreaked on civilians in Gaza will speak in the loss of credibility of the Israeli leaders at home. The Palestinians have nothing left to lose except their lives, and they are quiet inured to it in the past six decades of criminal violence they have faced. But Israel could face a military disaster like Lebanon that could further shatter its already battered myth of its invincibility. In part, the Jewish state is encouraged by the unconscionable inertia of the Muslim regimes that are beholden to the US for their power. But contrary to what monotheistic texts - one of which is scared to the Jews - say, Israeli leaders are quiet oblivious to the promise of natural retribution on crossing the limits of humanity time and again. But this is what they should be most afraid of.

Before they are done in by the Gaza campaign, Israeli leaders would do well to undo the invasion, and end the two-year-old blockade of the territory. They must come to the negotiating table with the Palestinians if they seriously want the rockets sporadically fired into their country to stop.

If the world powers, particularly the US, want to salvage what is left of their credibility in the world, they would be well advised to rein in Israel and compel it to create conditions for the Palestinians to live with peace and honour.

The article is from KO's archives and was originally published on June 12, 2010

South Asian Spillover Of Russia-Ukraine War



B. Z. KHASRU

When Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was excited to be in Moscow, he reflected the sentiment of many Pakistanis, who felt betrayed when Washington dumped its long-term Asian ally at the end of the Cold War and were jubilant at the thought of growing closer to a U.S. rival.

When Khan made his statement, however, he was apparently unaware that Europe's first major conflict since World War II was about to break out. Hours later, in the early morning of February 24, Russia invaded Ukraine, sparking a full-scale war that rages across the country.

The invasion, which was known to be imminent even before Khan left for Moscow, did not dim the Pakistani prime minister's excitement about his pending meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. It was the first such parley in a decade between the top leaders of Russia and Pakistan and held the promise of beginning a new chapter in Islamabad-Moscow ties.

Back home in Pakistan, the fifth largest country in the world by population, Khan's trip to Russia had stirred up high expectations, fueled by his government's billing of it as a "prelude to a greater relationship" with the country Pakistan had fought to repel in the 1980s during the war in Afghanistan.

The current rapport between Moscow and Islamabad at least in part resulted from Washington's neglect of Pakistan. The Muslim nation has been frantically searching for new friends ever since the Cold War ended and the United States left it out in the cold. During the Afghan war, sparked by the U.S. invasion in 2001, Pakistan and the United States did not see eye-to-eye. Now Washington, obviously, is unhappy with Pakistan's failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Pakistan, on the contrary, smells a rare opportunity to reassert its position in the region as Russia seeks a greater role in Kabul, where once-despised conservative Islamic clerics now bask in the glory of defeating the world's mightiest military. Russia's image as a global power would benefit if Moscow could regain a foothold in Afghanistan - the same place from which the mighty Red Army had to retreat in humiliation at the hands of the U.S.-backed Islamic forces. Ironically, the United States met the same fate last year when it ended its 20-year long Afghan war.

Pakistan is seeking to cash in on dramatic shifts in global power plays. By edging closer to Moscow, it can potentially help Russia recover much of the ground it is losing in South Asia as its Soviet-era ally, India, veers more and more into the U.S. orbit. A reversal of the roles played by India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed rivals, during the Cold War seems to be occurring.

Still, Pakistan is also wary of the implications of the Russian invasion for its own national interests. Pakistan has been fighting with India over Kashmir

since the 1940s. Aware of their own potential peril in Kashmir, and setting a precedent for state-to-state disagreements to be settled by force would be worrying, Pakistanis are staying neutral in the Russia-Ukraine confrontation.

They profess they favor talks over wars to resolve disputes. Nonetheless, Pakistan may derive a modicum of Schadenfreude from the United States' impotence as Russia advances into Ukraine. Khan had expressed his desire to work with the Biden administration but has yet to receive a phone call

PAKISTAN IS SEEKING TO CASH
in on dramatic shifts in global power plays. By edging closer to Moscow, it can potentially help Russia recover much of the ground it is losing in South Asia as its Soviet-era ally, India, veers more and more into the U.S. orbit. A reversal of the roles played by India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed rivals, during the Cold War seems to be occurring

from President Joe Biden, an insult hard to swallow. Putin, on the contrary, has honored Khan with three phone calls since August.

India's Balancing Act

Pakistan is far from alone in its stance, however. Other South Asian nations have shown a similar unwillingness to castigate Russia's actions. Even a public plea from Ukraine's envoy to Delhi, Ambassador Igor Polikha, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking Modi to personally request Putin change course, had no effects on India.

So far, India's public response is best summed up by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's tweet on Thursday, which said he had discussed with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell "the grave situation in Ukraine" and "how India could contribute to deescalation efforts." India's top diplomat pointedly refrained from even mentioning Russia, much less condemning it.

New Delhi, which relies heavily on Moscow for arms and oil, views both the United States and Russia as close allies. Siding with either one could have huge trade, defense, and diplomatic ramifications. India's diplomatic position reflects the national

psyche: Some of the Indians are America lovers, and they want India to rebuke Russia.

But India also has many Russian romantics who expect their nation to be even-handed. Meanwhile, Moscow is pleased with Delhi's neutral posture while Washington is decidedly not.

India's reticence indicates its uneasiness to switch totally from Russia, its long-term military and trade partner, to its newly found friend, the United States. Asia's general skepticism toward the West, a legacy of European colonialism, is also at play. On top of all this, the fateful U.S. withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan, which seriously hurt the United States' image, have left frightening imprints on Asian minds.

Bangladesh Takes a Neutral Position

Like India, its smaller neighbor Bangladesh is also taking the middle-of-the-road stance on Ukraine, urging "cessation of hostilities" by all sides without ascribing any blame.

Bangladesh, which owes a debt to Moscow because the Soviet veto in the U.N. Security Council made its birth possible in 1971, is likely to stick to its "friendship to all, malice toward none" foreign policy to avoid Russia's fury. Yet, in the interest of its own security Bangladesh would very much like to see big nations not bully their smaller neighbors. Bangladesh's strong economic ties with Russia are also a factor in its positioning on the Ukraine war. Moscow committed more than \$11 billion to Bangladesh three years ago to build a power plant. Of an extra \$12.21 billion in promised foreign aid, \$4.34 billion has already been disbursed.

Meanwhile, Dhaka-Washington relations went downhill after the United States slapped sanctions on Bangladesh's paramilitary force, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), citing human rights abuses. The move caught Bangladesh's government off guard and sparked stern rebukes.

Nepal's Tougher Stance

Nepal has so far taken the strongest position against Russia among all the South Asian nations.

"Recognition of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions as independent entities goes contrary to the provisions of the UN Charter," Nepal's foreign office said in a statement. "Nepal opposes any use of force against a sovereign country in any circumstance and believes in peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy and dialogue."

It's notable that Kathmandu took this position even though anti-American sentiment in the Himalayan country is currently running strong, centered around charges that the U.S. is trying to coerce Nepal into joining an anti-China coalition.

Unlike its neighbors, the landlocked nation of 30 million people, which is surrounded by India and China, is less concerned with Russia. Nepal's positioning in geopolitics essentially boils down to its relationships to China, India, and the United States; Russia does not figure much in its economic or security calculus. So Nepal can afford to do what its bigger neighbors can't: take a stance dictated by principle rather than realpolitik.

Overall, any European dispute will meet with public apathy because South Asians have shared experiences under colonialism and neocolonialism. The regional governments' responses to the Russia-Ukraine war will depend on each nation's trade and security interests, but at the level of public opinion the clash will largely be dismissed as a fight between White men for global domination.

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

B. Z. Khasru, a U.S.-based journalist, is author of "Bangladesh Liberation War, How India, U.S., China and the USSR Shaped the Outcome" and "The Bangladesh Military Coup and the CIA Link." His new book, "One Eleven Minus Two, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's War on Yunus and America," will be published shortly by Rupa & Co., New Delhi

War Ruminations

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR

War is terrible and it is a bloody business, literally. After the insurgency in Afghanistan last year, once again the world is witnessing a war, and this time Ukraine is bleeding. An image of a Ukrainian father's farewell to his cute daughter is trending on social media. Will such images move Vladimir Putin's heart? Will the image of innocent children fleeing for refuge move those politicians' and generals' hearts?

In recent times, the world saw scores of heart-rending images of crying, bleeding, wounded and helpless children in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Kashmir and elsewhere. Civilians became victims of invading forces, crushing humanity for the sake of feigned glory. For those callous and hardened political leaders, power and wealth matter, and not human relations and emotions.

AN IMAGE OF A UKRAINIAN
father's farewell to his cute daughter is trending on social media. Will such images move Vladimir Putin's heart? Will the image of innocent children fleeing for refuge move those politicians' and generals' hearts?

And which is why, perhaps imperialists have never learned any lesson from history.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine will presumably change the course of European and world history, but for imperialists like Putin, it will hardly teach any lesson. When can we see a world which is totally and absolutely conflict-free? Perhaps, the answer is when the power of love overcomes the love of power.

Poetry In War

Written by Wilfred Owen posthumously during World War I, this anti-war poem is as relevant as ever. In the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, we read this poem as a reminder that beyond the bugle of war there are real people and their lives at stake on both sides.

Dulce et Decorum Est

WILFRED OWEN

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we
cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost
their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went
lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.
Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of
fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and
stumbling

And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—
Dim through the misty panes and thick
green light,

As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.
In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.
If in some smothering dreams, you too
could pace

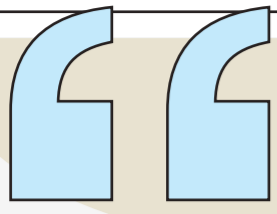
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing
in his face,

His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-compulsed lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent
tongues,—

My friend, you would not tell with such
high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

Latin phrase is from the Roman poet
Horace: "It is sweet and fitting to die
for one's country."

N/A
Source: Poems (Viking Press, 1921)



WE THOUGHT VIDEOS WERE TAKING OVER.
However, podcasts are not only followed but loved by many. Who would have thought that in the era of Instagram takeover by short videos and visuals, audio could still make a mark?

Be A Nerdy Muslim With These Podcasts



ISLAMIC HISTORY PODCAST

THE PODCAST NOT ONLY DEALS with history as it panned out but reads it in tandem with Islam as it exists and operates today. In their own words, their website states that they aim at understanding, “not only what happened” but “why it happened”.

KO Web Desk

We thought videos were taking over. However, podcasts are not only followed but loved by many. Who would have thought that in the era of Instagram takeover by short videos and visuals, audio could still make a mark?

Whether it is your commute to the office, your morning walk, running errands, buying groceries, cleaning your room or your kitchen chores, why not spend your time listening, learning and living alongside? There are thousands of podcasts in every single genre and it is not quite possible to recommend a representative list. So, we've tried to compile here some podcasts that will help you brush up Islamic history and help you understand the world around critically, as Muslims.

Views expressed in the podcasts do not necessarily represent the views of Kashmir Observer. These are random recommendations for information and are not meant for promoting any specific person or ideology.

The Islamic History Podcast

This podcast is a hit among youngsters as it gives them an opportunity to explore history that has often been institutionally sidelined in modern day schools and university curriculums. IHP began in 2015 as an off-shoot of Islamic Learning Materials blog.

The podcast not only deals with history as it panned out but reads it in tandem with Islam as it exists and operates today. In their own words, their website states that they aim at understanding, “not only what happened” but “why it happened”. They have explored the most pressing, integral, significant and instrumental aspects of Islamic history.

You can listen to them on Spotify, Apple Music, Youtube, Islamichistorypodcast.com and Google Play Music

Boys in The Cave

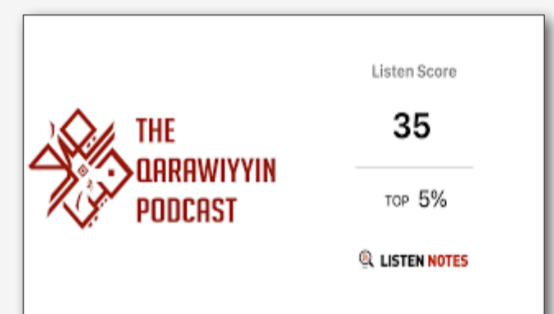
This popular podcast aims at reviving the ethos of discussions and debate about Islam and Muslims in a modern context. It intends to and deservedly achieves to trigger a revival of Islamic discourse. The discussions revolve around varied subjects like activism, orientalism, masculinity, colonization, racism and bioethics. Their latest episode, “China,



Authoritarianism and the Uyghurs” talks about oppression, Chinese Communist Party, Islamophobia, politics and the Muslim World with Uyghur activist Arslan Hidayat.

Check out Episode 56, “Orientalism, Modernity & Mohammad Iqbal” and thank us later (email maybe?)

The Qarawiyyin Podcast



The Qarawiyyin podcast, a part of the Qarawiyyin project is an attempt at reviving the tradition of scholarly debates and critical issues among Muslim women. It aims to empower Muslim women to discuss issues that concern them and take an active role in engaging with the world around.

WHAT CAUGHT THE WEB Hashim's Pasoori



KO Web Desk

Coke Studio Season 14's song Pasoori by Ali Sethi and Shae Gill has won several hearts across the globe. Now, Kashmir's young musician Hashim's recent rendition of the song has left music lovers in awe.

After getting internet recognition and love for his social media performances, especially covers of some famous songs, Hashim has yet again treated music lovers with his colorful sound and joyful music in the shape of Pasoori's cover.

Hashim's rendition comes at a time when

Pasoori along with all of the other bangers from Coke Studio 14 have broken literal borders. The season has been liked in not just Pakistan but in India as well. Here in Kashmir, it has especially managed to be the song of the young. It is not surprising then that Hashim's cover managed to get viral and everyone was up for a treat. The cover has been liked so much that many tagged Pasoori's singer Ali Sethi almost everywhere in the comment's section to grab his attention.

What can be inferred from Hashim's cover is that Kashmir's young talent is no nonsense. The guy's got real talent.

KODAK MOMENT



NOTHING IS LOST UNTIL YOUR MOTHER can't find it. Photo by Basharat Akhoun
Twitter / Instagram : @basharat_akhoun

Want your click to get featured? Send it to us at editpage.ko@gmail.com

India brings back first batch of 219 citizens from Ukraine; 250 more on way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday brought back the first batch of 219 of its citizens from Romania after facilitating their exit from Ukraine and stepped up efforts to evacuate more people with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking up the matter with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the safe and expeditious return of the stranded Indians.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted that the second flight from Bucharest has taken off for Delhi with 250 Indian nationals as part of the evacuation mission, titled "Operation Ganga".

At the same time, it is learnt that Indian officials in Ukraine are facing growing complexities to evacuate the Indians to the neighbouring countries with Russian forces closing in on Ukrainian capital Kyiv and targeting several other key cities by land and air.

In a telephonic conversation with Zelenskyy, Modi conveyed India's deep concern for the safety and security of its nationals in Ukraine and sought facilitation by Ukrainian authorities to "expeditiously and safely" evacuate the Indians, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Currently, nearly 16,000 Indians are stranded in Ukraine.



As gunfire, bombings and missile attacks continued to rock various parts of Ukraine, the Indian embassy in Kyiv on Saturday asked its nationals to exercise caution at all times and not move towards any border post to exit the country without prior coordination with its officials.

It particularly advised the Indians staying in the eastern parts of Ukraine to remain in their current places of residence and stay indoors or in shelters as much as possible.

"All those currently in the Eastern sector are requested to continue to remain in their current places of residence until further instructions, maintain calm and stay indoors or in shelters as much as possible, with whatever food, water and amenities available and remain

patient," the embassy said.

"Avoid unnecessary movement. We once again remind you to exercise caution at all times, be aware of your surroundings and the recent developments," it added.

It also asked all Indians not to move to any border point without prior coordination with Indian officials.

"All Indian citizens in Ukraine are advised to not move to any of the border posts without prior coordination with the government of India officials at the border posts and the emergency numbers of the embassy of India in Kyiv," the embassy said.

It said the situation at various border checkpoints is sensitive and the embassy is working continuously with the Indian missions in the neighbouring

countries for a coordinated evacuation of the citizens.

"Embassy is finding it increasingly difficult to help the crossing of those Indian nationals who reach border checkpoint without prior intimation," it said.

India on Friday managed to set up camp offices in Lviv and Chemivtsi towns in western Ukraine to facilitate the transit of Indians to Hungary, Romania and Poland.

India also positioned teams of officials at Zahony border post in Hungary, Krakowiec as well as Shehyni-Medyka land border points in Poland, Vysne Nemecke in the Slovak Republic and Suceava transit point in Romania to coordinate the exit of Indian nationals from Ukraine.

India is trying to evacuate its nationals through Ukraine's land borders with Hungary, Poland, Slovakia after the Ukrainian government closed the country's airspace following the Russian military offensive.

Earlier on Saturday, the Indian embassy in Hungary said the first batch of Indian students entered the country from Ukraine through a transit point and they were taken to Budapest for return to India.

After 219 Indians boarded the Air India flight from Bucharest to Mumbai, Jaishankar tweeted that progress is being made on

evacuating the Indians.

"Our teams are working on the ground round the clock. I am personally monitoring," he said.

Jaishankar also extended his "heartfelt thanks" to Romanian foreign minister Bogdan Aurescu for his government's cooperation.

The Air India flight arrived from Bucharest in Mumbai at 7.50 PM.

"Our mission is not complete till we have taken the last person to India out of Ukraine. Wishing you a very safe journey back home," Indian Ambassador to Romania Rahul Shrivastava told the Indian students on board the first evacuation flight.

"When you talk to your friends who are waiting to be evacuated, you should tell and assure them that the entire government of India team is working day and night including all officials here to evacuate everyone," the envoy said.

In a related development, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan virtually interacted with parents of students who are stuck in Ukraine.

"Listened to them and responded to the concerns regarding safety and well-being of their children. Conveyed the government's commitment to bring back each and every student safely," he tweeted.

'Wagah-Attari' Style Beating Retreat Ceremony Restarted By BSF Along IB In Jammu

JAMMU: The beating retreat ceremony restarted by Border Security Force Saturday at Border Outpost Suchetgarh on the International Border here, about seven weeks after it was suspended owing to the surge in the Coronavirus cases, officials said.

The 'Wagah-Attari-style' ceremony, comprising a structured parade by BSF men on every Saturday and Sunday, was launched in October last year as part of the border tourism promotion programme of the government and had attracted visitors in large numbers.

With the third wave of COVID-19 on ebb over the past few weeks, the administration and the BSF authorities decided to resume the beating retreat ceremony that was suspended on January 9, the officials said.

The officials said over 1300 people watched the beating retreat ceremony on the first day after resumption and the number is likely to be several hundred more on Sunday.

In the past, over 4000 visitors used to turn up to watch the parade on both the weekend days, the officials said.

Schools To Reopen In Kargil After Winter Vacation Next Month

LEH: The schools in Kargil district of Ladakh will resume offline classes after winter vacation from next month, an official order said on Saturday.

The decision to reopen all government and private schools was taken after a fresh review of the COVID-19 situation in the district, the order said.

The order, issued by deputy commissioner Kargil Santosh Sukhadeve, said keeping in view the improved COVID-19 situation in the district, it is hereby ordered that all government and private schools will reopen after

winter vacation with effect from March 1 for Class 6 to 12. The rest of the schools up to Class 5 will open with effect from March 11, the order said.

The schools in Kargil and Leh districts were closed in November last year for winter vacation amid a surge in COVID-19 cases. The Union Territory of Ladakh on Saturday reported 24 new COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally to 27,971, while 42 recoveries brought down the count of active cases to 230 215 in Leh and 15 in Kargil.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Panel Accepts

segments including Poonch, Mendhar, Surankote, Thanna Mandi, Rajouri, Banihal, Marh, Jammu North etc.

Notably, five seats reserved for STs in Jammu region are Surankote and Mendhar in Poonch district and Rajouri, Darhal and Thanna Mandi in Rajouri district. Four seats are reserved for STs in Kashmir division, totaling nine.

Reports have also suggested that BJP MP's suggestion for inclusion of Shopian into Anantnag-Poonch Parliamentary constituency has been rejected, besides rejecting NC's objection for inclusion of Poonch district and parts of Rajouri district in South Kashmir Parliamentary segment.

The reports have also suggested that the commission has accepted the BJP's suggestion for de-reservation of at least one Assembly seat in Poonch district as all three constituencies there were reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Poonch-Mandi constituency has been de-reserved and declared as a general seat.

Kot Patwar Circle of Raipur Domana whose four Panchayats had been clubbed with Marh (SC Reserve) seat in the draft report have now been merged with Jammu North Assembly constituency.

Doongi, Suhana, Bagla and Fatehpur Panchayats which were part of newly created Thanna Mandi Assembly segment in Rajouri district have been clubbed with Rajouri Assembly seat as they were part of Rajouri tehsil.

Poonch Patwar Halqas of Mandi block which had been included in Surankote constituency in the draft report have again been made part of Poonch-Mandi segment. Similarly, some Halqas of Mendhar segment which were incorporated in Surankote have been reversed to Mendhar. Sangaldan area has now been included in Banihal Assembly seat of Ramban district while Tangar belt of Banihal has been shifted to Ramban seat.

The Commission is likely to meet five Associate Members and brief them about their suggestions/objections which have been accepted or rejected. After the meeting, it is believed that the commission will put its report in public domain for inviting claims and objections.

Earlier sources had told Kashmir Observer that the Delimitation Commission will put its final draft along with the objections of the associate members in public domain and will start to seek objections and opinion from the public and political parties for a specified time, probably in the month of March.

Pertinently, in its first draft proposal, the Assembly seats in the Jammu division were increased from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir from 46 to 47. Almost all parties had expressed strong resentment over the panel's proposals and had rejected it.

Kashmiris In Kyiv

A moment later, I was cursing myself for not trusting my friend's foretold warning.

The last time I'd cursed myself was in 2010, when Kashmir burst into street rage. The same old memories of refuting threats, the apprehensions of dying and fear of being unable to see my parent's face one last time, were running high.

In the middle of that blast from

the past, a third explosion shook me. Immediately, I found myself hustling downstairs to the basement with some Indian friends with whom I've been ignoring the war threats.

We looked at our phones in complete silence and tried to track the target of these missiles. In the next 15 minutes, I'd already calmed myself to an extent where I could call my fellow Kashmiri friends but the students from different parts of India standing right next to me had frozen in fear.

The sweat was dripping down their faces and, their hands trembling.

The missiles had struck, on the outskirts of the town, on a military establishment that houses the Ukrainian command overseeing the war in Kyiv and sometimes maintains a record of war-updates of Kharkiv, Mariupol and Odessa.

The point that was targeted by the Russian missiles was exactly the one where I was hearing my Kashmiri friend's frantic speech fourteen hours back.

The hospital that was damaged by these missiles was the one where I had been interning as a doctor.

While Ukrainian and foreign students were trying to figure out a way to run from this unpredictable attack, I was still hanging on to my dreadful-Kashmir history.

A few hours later, on the highway, I along with some 10 students were travelling to buy some groceries and get some cash. While passing through the rubble of some damaged structures, we passed a dark plume of smoke coming from a faraway collection of buildings that were once known as the Ukrainian Military's training center.

On seeing that smouldered structure, most of the students started to cry and shrieked, "This is our end!"

But I was standing there, thinking about the year 2016 when structures went up in flames in my homeland. It was yet another indication of why Kashmiri people tend to have a deteriorated mental health. Conflict has badly injected our minds.

Perhaps, with each tip and toe, the facts of D-Day came into existence. What I'd read in books was right in front of me. The Red Army was knocking at the gates of the capital city just 48 hours after Putin pressed the button.

While Ukraine is meekly battling the offensive, Sunday might be the last day when this country will crumble under the jackboots of the advancing Red Army.

But what remained with me at the end of the silent day was one big nagging question that had gripped my mind: Wherever we Kashmiris go, bloody conflict follows us!

As told to Zaid Bin Shabir, this first person account has been produced verbatim here by withholding the name of the Kashmiri doctor on request.

84 Test Positive

division, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 452901.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered a maximum of 12 new cases of virus, Budgam 4, Kupwara 3 and one case each in Bandipora and Baramulla districts. The five districts of Pulwama, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian detected no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said,

Jammu reported the highest 30 fresh cases of infection, Doda 15, Kishtwar and Udhampur 6 each, Kathua 3, Ramban 2 and Rajouri 1. No new cases were registered in the three districts of Samba, Poonch and Reasi.

"Moreover, 208 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 158 from Jammu Division and 50 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained 4748 in J&K—2325 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

The officials also said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

MoU Signed

engineering and machine tools to gain wide scope and traction among influencer bodies from different states, among others, the spokesman said.

The MoU was signed by managing director, JKTPO Ankit Kar and director, LEAD, Sunil Shah in presence of principal secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), R P Thakur, to catalyse investments in sectors contributing towards economic growth, employment creation, trade opportunities and growth in GDP in J&K, the spokesman said.

Landslides Block

improvement in weather, they said the road-clearance agencies have pressed men and machinery to clear the debris off the highway.

Reports of snowfall ranging between a few inches to over one feet were also received from the high altitude areas of Kishtwar, Reasi, Doda, Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua district of Jammu region.

The Trikuta hills, housing the famous cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Reasi, have turned white after the fresh snowfall but the pilgrimage was going on smoothly, the officials said.

NC Will Contest

that what happened on August 5 and 6, 2019 in Parliament was unconstitutional," Tarigami said referring to abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State into two Union territories.

Abdullah, who heads the PAGD, said the BJP was hoping that it can win the maximum number of seats in the assembly after the delimitation.

"They want to pass a resolution in the assembly that whatever they did in August 2019 has been accepted. I am sure they will then take it to Supreme Court and say it has been done.

"Otherwise, what was the need for a Delimitation Commission here when it was agreed that the entire country would undergo the exercise in 2026? Why was Jammu and Kashmir targeted?" he said.

The former chief minister said the elections are the basis of democracy and the "first thing in that democratic situation is the delimitation commission's report".

"What they (delimitation commission) have done is very unfortunate... Look what they have done, one constituency I will tell you about is Anantnag. How is the member of parliament elected from Rajouri going to look after the areas on this side in Anantnag or how is the MP elected from Anantnag going to look after the areas in Poonch

and Rajouri. This is just one instance," he said.

Abdullah questioned the claims that the delimitation exercise was aimed at bringing the people together and carve out constituencies in such a manner that it's easy for the people to have their cases projected.

"It does not seem that the Delimitation Commission has done that. It has further alienated the people," he alleged.

PAGD Urges Govt

meeting of the alliance at the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here.

"The Government of India must without losing any time go for a dispassionate appraisal of the August 2019 assault on the special status and territorial integrity of State of Jammu and Kashmir. On such introspection, the Government of India will undoubtedly realise that it has not been only a misadventure but gross violation of the Constitution and a huge betrayal," the PAGD said in its 38-page white paper.

The alliance said that it will be sufficiently clear that the unilateral and unethical decisions pushed the entire region to uncertainty and widened the gulf between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country and above all resulted in an avoidable drain on the scarce and precious resources to maintain calm on the streets.

Calling upon the Centre to undo its decisions of 2019, the PAGD said the autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir should be restored.

"The Government of India should urgently undertake an exercise of introspection and course correction, revoke all the decisions taken in August 2019 and restore the autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The least, the Government of India could do, is to grant real autonomy to the J&K state as envisioned by the Constituent Assembly of India and ratified by the Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir. And work out legal mechanism in consultation with the J&K legislature of real political and administrative devolutions to the respective regions and sub-regions within the framework of that autonomy," it added.

The alliance said any attempt or any plan of proposals for divisions, bifurcations and trifurcations must be rejected.

"This is bound to communalise the regions and communities permanently. A careful and elaborate mechanism for the process of reconciliation and sustainable peace has to be worked out.

"At the same time, we appeal to the people of all the regions, sub regions, ethnic groups and communities of the state that we must uphold and strengthen our age-old relationship and resolve to move forward to shape our future together. Our people have passed through tragedies and our recent past has been quite painful. Tragedies cannot and should not divide us further. Grievances, if any, can be addressed and removed; but in no case should these weaken the historic bonds of our relationship. Any division on any pretext would be detrimental to this cherished goal," it added.

The PAGD appealed to Parliament, all secular democratic parties and the civil society at large to realise the serious consequences of the abrogation of Article 370.

"We also call upon them to analyse

whether the projected objectives and the narrative built up in favour of the regressive decision of doing away with the special position of the erstwhile state, are justified or are the result of divisive and highly authoritarian policies of the government. This should not be seen as an isolated instance or aberration but a serious attack on federalism and democracy," it said.

"They must come forward and raise their voice against this unconstitutional assault on the rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. We all must unitedly struggle in defense of democracy, federalism and unity of our people," the alliance said.

Govt's Booze Boost

will ensure that only single vend is secured by a bidder whose eligibility has been capped to the domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir only.

He further said that the new policy would also put an effective check on the menace of bootlegging and smuggling of all narcotic drugs in J&K from neighboring states and UTs.

According to an order from the Excise Department, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer, there will be e-auction of vends and the e-auction portal would be governed by J&K Bank as a third party nodal agency, adding

"Excise Department will allot 51 new vends in un-served/under-served areas in addition to 228 vends as already notified vide SO No.114 of 2021", reads the order.

It adds that the auctions will be done in a completely secure and transparent manner. The detailed procedure for -action/instructions to the bidders are available on the e-auction portal and on the official web site of the department

It further says that the reserve price of each shop is Rs. 5 lacs as given in the Excise Policy. The bidders can bid in increments of Rs. 25000/= (Max. one lac) beyond the reserve price.

In case the highest bid is received within 5 minutes before the scheduled closing time of bidding, the time for e-auction shall be automatically extended by another 5 minutes beyond the scheduled closing of the particular bid.

In 2020, the J&K government had announced plans to open liquor outlets at different locations in the Kashmir Valley.

The Excise Department had identified new 183 locations, 116 in Jammu and 67 in the Kashmir Valley, for the sale of liquor but the same proposal was turned down by the Finance Department without giving any reason.

Cinemas and liquor shops were closed down in the Valley with the onset of militancy in 1989. However, as the militancy lost steam in late 90's, two liquor outlets opened at Batwara and Aloochoi Bagh, with active support from the government.

The liquor shops and those running it came under militant attacks in this capital city.

On November 15, 2012, militants opened fire at liquor shops located on high security Boulevard here, killing a salesman and injuring four others.

On June 30, 2011, a 5-kg IED, placed inside a steel container, was planted near the liquor shop. Later, a bomb disposal squad from police defused the device without any damage to life.

Earlier in 2004, suspected militants had shot dead the owner of Aloochoi Bagh liquor shop, Abdul Hameed

Sheikh forcing the closure of the outlet.

DCs Asked To Speed

Secretary of the Home Dept, was directed by the Divisional Commissioner to expedite issuance of Form-J, amended Form-J, issuance of derequisition permissions under the land acquisition cases pending under the J&K RAIP Act, 1968.

Similarly, he said, it was apprised in the meeting that all fresh requisition cases post 31 Oct, 2019 fall under the ambit of RAIP Act, 1952 for which certain clarifications have been sought by the JKUT from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"Key issues that came up for discussion in the meeting included pending joint demarcations, cases of field firing ranges in Jammu & Samba districts, works around Jammu Airport, issues of various Military stations in the division, derequisition proposals of Domana/Jandial/Ambaran/ Chak Singha under Jammu-Akhnor-Poonch NH, pending Board proceedings on part of Army authorities etc.," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the DEO Udhampur, Jammu & ADEO Rajouri were directed to be more proactive in resolving the long pending matters and to be available in person or through their representative in each Rate Fixation Committee meeting called by the respective DCs.

"The Div Com said that it will help in speedy issuance of permissions for building structures and the public can get their permissions in a time bound manner," he added.

The meeting was attended in person by VC JDA, Additional Secretary Home, Assistant Commissioner Central, besides Senior Officers of Army, Defence Estate Officers and other concerned, while Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with other concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

2 JKAS Officers

government, Owais Mushtaq, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East), has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama, against an available vacancy.

The order further reads that Murtaza Ahmad Rashid, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ganderbal, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East).

Shooting Stone

at Mehar along the 272-km highway around 4.30 am Saturday, officials said.

Dar was en route to Kashmir from Jammu and was rescued by a joint team of the police and civil volunteers, the officials said, adding his condition is stated to be stable.

Heroin Seized

They said the heroin was found packed in over a dozen polythene packets.

However, no one was arrested in connection with the recovery, the officials said, adding a case has been registered and further details are awaited. (PTI)

Police Starts

Dial 112 wherever they are in distress and for any kind of emergency assistance," the officials said.

They said besides normal police help, people in distress can seek assistance in terms of women safety as well.

"The citizens can also call this number for ambulance or fire brigade services," the officials added.

Man Gets Life Term For Killing Brother

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A court in Anantnag district on Saturday awarded life imprisonment to a man for killing his brother with axe in a bid to grab his property nearly nine years ago.

Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag Naseer Ahmad Dar also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the convict Ghulam Nabi Bhat son of Gull Mohammad Bhat of Mal Akad, Anantnag for killing his 33-year-old brother, Mohammad Shafi, on 3 March 2013. "Taking into consideration the mitigating factors and other attending facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the opinion that this is not the fit case where death penalty should be imposed under section 302 RPC," Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag said.

Therefore, the court said it would be just and proper to sentence the convict for life imprisonment. "Accordingly, convict namely Gh. Nabi Bhat is sentenced to imprisonment for life under section 302 RPC and fine of Rs.10,000."

The court said that the ultimate victims of the crime are the family of the deceased.

"It has been reported that the deceased is survived by besides old aged father, the widow and three children and all the children were minors at the time of alleged occurrence and still two out of three children are minors including one daughter," the court said, adding, "Therefore, while passing the sentence upon the convict, the question of compensation of the victims of the crime is also to be taken into consideration."

The court recommended that Member Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority shall release an amount of Rs.2 lakhs in favour of the legal heirs of the deceased through their mother namely Mst. Muneera Begum.

"It is also recommended that out of Rs.2 lakhs, Rs.50,000 shall be paid to the father of the deceased and the accused namely Gull Mohammad Bhat."

The court awarded the sentence a day after convicting Ghulam Nabi Bhat for murdering his brother.

The court held that the prosecution has been able to prove each of the links in the chain of circumstances.

As per the prosecution, on 16 March 2013 police station Matan received information that Mohammad Shafi Bhat was taken to hospital at Seer Hamdan after being attacked in broad daylight by some unknown persons by a sharp weapon with intention to kill him.

A case (FIR No. 14 of 2013) under Section 307 RPC was registered by the police and investigation was initiated. Shafi was referred to SKIMS Soura where he succumbed to the injuries after a week on 20 March 2013.

In between, on 17 March 2013, police on the basis of suspicion, called Ghulam Nabi Bhat to the police station for enquiry who disclosed in Kashmiri language that he after finding his brother alone locked him in a cow shed and attacked him with an axe repeatedly with intention to kill him. He had put grass over him and locked the cow shed, the prosecution said.

"The axe with which he killed his brother was kept in the entrance (Gaji) of 'Hamam' which he can recover from there".

Ghulam Nabi was first arrested in offence under Section 307 RPC but after the death case was converted into Section 302 RPC (murder).

"During investigation on the basis of evidence it surfaced that (Ghulam Nabi Bhat) had an eye on the property of deceased and was pretending to be sick, waiting for his brother to be alone and on the day of occurrence while wife and daughter of accused had left for the fields when his brother was sitting at home along with his younger daughter," the prosecution said, adding, "The accused after designing a plot sent his daughter twice to market for bringing cigarette. On seeing the (brother) alone attacked him and killed him". (GNS)

Light Snow, Rainfall Predicted In J&K On March 2-3

©Pic: Abid Bhat/KO



Kashmir valley witnessed a bright sunshine on Saturday after two days of rain and snowfall.

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Saturday predicted light rains and snowfall on March 2 to 3 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There will be partly cloudy weather till March 1st and cloudy with possibility of light rain/snow (over higher reaches) during 2-3rd March," an official of the meteorological department here said. "There's no forecast of any significant weather till March 5," he added.

Earlier the meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 4.6mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours. The summer capital of J&K recorded a rise of 0.2°C in night temperature with mercury settling at 1.8°C against last night's 1.6°C, he said.

Qazigund had 6.5 centimeters of fresh snowfall during the time and recorded a low of minus 0.2°C against 0.6°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, also received 4.0 cms of snowfall and had a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.5°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, received 16 centimeters of fresh snowfall and recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.8°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg received 15.2 centimeters of fresh snowfall and recorded a low of minus 7.5°C against minus 5.5°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.7°C below normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir had 2 cms of snowfall and recorded a low of 0.2°C against 2.2°C on the previous night, the official said.

While 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day long harshest period of

winter ended on January 30, and 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' culminated on February 19, Kashmir is presently under the grip of 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'.

Jammu had 21.7mm of rainfall overnight and recorded a low of 8.8°C against 10.4°C on the previous night, the official said.

The temperature was 2.8°C below normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded 12 cms of snowfall and had a low of minus 0.4°C, Batote received 5cms of snowfall and recorded a minimum of minus 1.9°C while Baderwah witnessed 3.0 cm of snowfall and recorded a low of 0.1°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 6.6°C against last night minus 7.0°C on the previous night. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 7.9°C, against 18.0°C on the previous night, officials said. (GNS)

Div Com Asks Employees To Have Golden Card Before Mar 1



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved by districts vis a vis enrolment of eligible population for Golden Card under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna scheme.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners; MD NHM; Director Health Services Kashmir; Incharge Divisional Covid Control Room, Kashmir and other officers.

On the occasion, Div Com emphasized upon all Deputy Commissioners to ensure all employees along with their families

are enrolled under Ayushman Bharat- Golden Card scheme.

He also appealed employees to have Golden Card before 1st March to avail benefits under the scheme.

He also issued directions for opening of Golden Card enrolment counters in OPD registration chambers at Sub-District, District and tertiary care hospitals.

Besides, Div Com also directed for organizing Golden Card enrolment camps for students at Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges when these education institutions are re-opened for offline teaching.

He also stressed on completion of registration of entire population for AB-PMJAY by or before the fixed deadline.

New Age Baleno Launched At NEXA-Jamkash Vehicleleads In Kashmir



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The much awaited premium hatchback of Maruti Suzuki- the New Age Baleno was today unveiled at the NEXA dealerships of Jamkash Vehicleleads (Kashmir) Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

The chief guest on the occasion was Rakesh Aima (Regional Manager State Bank of India). The occasion was graced by the presence of dignitaries from J&K Bank, Mahindra Finance, HDFC Bank & Cholamandalam Finance and other officials of SBI.

Managing Director of Jamkash Vehicleleads (Kashmir) Pvt. Ltd., Irfan Ahmad Narwaroo, and CEO Aawan Ahmad Narwaroo unveiled the car virtually while senior management of Jamkash Vehicleleads Kashmir were present during the occasion which witnessed presence of a large gathering of auto lovers and customers who had been waiting for the launch of the New Age Baleno.

General Manager, NEXA Jam-

kash, Erfaan Gul while speaking on the occasion stated that the car is equipped with a class leading technology, safety, comfort and convenience features and NEXA's new signature crafted futurism design language. Further, he added the new age Baleno will provide and unparalleled driving experience to customers.

Baleno, since its launch, is amongst the top five best selling cars in the industry which has already touched the customer base of over one million in India and abroad.

In order to cater to the changing technology and innovation, the New Age Baleno is all set to re-energise the premium hatchback segment with several first in segment features like Head-up display, 6 air bags, 360 degree camera and best in class mileage. The new age baleno comes with fresh look, premium interiors and a special focus on safety will take the customer experience to a new high.

SKUAST-K Holds Counselling Programme At Wadura Campus



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir held a counselling programme on moral values at the Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), Wadura.

The programme was organized by the Career Counselling and Placement Centre of FoA. The session was chaired by the Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Raihana Habib Kanth. The programme was attended by heads of various divisions, scientists, student welfare officer and students of the faculty.

The resource person Prof Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Associate Director Research, SKUAST-K in his presentation emphasized that neglecting to teach moral values alongside academic concepts in colleges is hurting the students and causing problems in society.

"If an individual does not learn moral values as they de-

velop, how will they be able to discern the difference between right and wrong. Moreover, if they develop poor ethics and no moral values, they could harm society," he said.

During the inaugural address, Dean FoA Prof Kanth said that goal of incorporating moral values into education is to ensure that students not only have the knowledge and skills needed to work and succeed, but also the compassion and emotional wherewithal to be a part of a safe, peaceful, and cooperative society.

She also advised students to follow the advice of Prof Nazir Ahmad Bhat an eminent teacher who has served the University in different capacities. Lastly, Dr Ajaz Ahmad Qureshi organizing secretary of the programme proposed vote of thanks. The program was moderated by Fazil Fayaz Wani PhD scholar.

Ready For School Reopening: Director Health

Says SOPs Are To Be Followed From Leaving Home To Entering School

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather Saturday said that schools will reopen as announced already and the government was prepared for it at all levels.

"We are ready for opening of the schools following the decision by the LG administration. SOPs are to be followed from moving for home to reaching school," he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by Zadibal PHC to facilitate the covid warriors.

"SOPs are to be followed in the bus or matador to be boarded by the student. At school entrance, there would thermal

scanning. It will be seen if the student has put up mask and that too properly," he said, adding, "If it is seen that any student is febrile (having or showing the symptoms of a fever), he or she will be sent back home."

He said there are already directions regarding social distancing and if there are 80 students in a class room and social distancing cannot be maintained, then there have to be 40 students at a time. "Use of sanitizers and cleanliness will be there," he said, adding, "There would be random testing and if any student comes out to be positive, he or she will be properly isolated." He said schools will reopen and "we are ready. Government is ready. Directorate of education is ready."

He also thanked media for its role in busting myths about the vaccination.

"There has been good response to vaccination in 15-

17 age-group. Vaccination in the age group of more than 60-year-age with co-morbidities stands completed," he said, adding, "Vaccination is important and it is with it that third wave will soon come to an end."

He said that in every district, a pediatric ICU is being set up along with pediatric wards. "Every district has facility of oxygen and there will tertiary-level treatment now available at door step. People of Kupwara will have it there, Kulgam will get in own district," he said, adding, "Within two months, the entire system will get started and this is a big change happening."

He also urged people not to lower guard and continue to maintain covid-19 appropriate behavior. "We have seen there was complacency after drop in second wave. Vaccination remains the key and if there is someone who has not taken the same, he or she should take it."

2 Militant Associates Held In Kupwara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two militant associates from Lolab area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"Kupwara Police along with 28 RR has apprehended two individuals namely Rashid Ahmad Peer, son of Ab Ahmad Peer, residency of Tekipora, Lolab and Adil Hussain Shah, son of Gh Mohd Shah, a resident of Shat Muqam, Lolab in a joint operation in Lolab", reads a statement.

"Both the individuals were indulged in anti-national activi-

ties and were planning to join [militant] ranks, in order to revive [militancy] in the area besides providing active support to [militants]", reads the statement.

"Both the individuals came under the observation of the security forces when they were found suspicious in their movement and pro [militancy] activity on Social Media platform, the statement reads.

"Based on the inputs developed by Police, the duo was apprehended and put to sustained questioning. During the course of investigation, incriminating

material including posters, photographs, videos and contents of the conversation with active [militants] and [militant] handlers from across were recovered from the mobile phones of both the individuals", it reads.

An FIR No. 07/2022, under relevant sections has been registered at Police Station Sogam against them & the investigation in the case is under progress.

"The timely joint efforts of security forces resulted in averting major incident in the area which has witnessed peace for the past two-three years", the statement concludes.

TRANSFORMING J&K

SEHAT: A People's Movement For Advanced Healthcare

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to provide best and advanced health care facilities to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, the government launched AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in convergence with the Central Government's AB-PMJAY scheme to provide free of cost 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage' up to Rs. 5 lakh per family on a floater basis.

After the successful start of this scheme, the government launched massive public outreach campaign 'One person one Golden card' to raise awareness regarding this flagship scheme and enrol maximum people in it.

The 'One person one Golden card' campaign targets the dis-

tribution of 58 lakh Golden cards under the AB-PMJAY & AB-PMJAY-SEHAT health insurance schemes, among the beneficiaries by organizing special camps at the Panchayat level. The aim is to cover the poor families from rural background and ensure greater coverage with easy access to affordable healthcare facilities during health emergencies.

Among the 10-point campaign, specific focus has been laid to step up the targeted delivery of healthcare schemes for the poor and to ensure 100 per cent saturation of eligible beneficiaries in a mission mode.

Even though the State Health Agency is presently organizing 'Gaan Gaon Ayushman', wherein 'Golden card' generation drive is

closely monitored right from the Panchayat level, the 'One Person One Golden Card' campaign fixes a tangible target for covering the remaining 58 Lakh population in the scheme.

Under AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme, a Ayushman Golden Card, is provided to the beneficiary through which the government and private hospitals selected under the scheme can get free treatment upto Rs 5 lakh.

There is no cap on family size and age as this health cover is inclusive for all. Moreover this scheme holds women, children especially girls and those over 60 in special regard. The scheme provides those in need to get secondary healthcare benefits offered by specialists like cardiolo-

gists and urologists. Moreover, advanced medical treatment like that for cancer, cardiac surgery and others is also covered.

Primary health care is people's movement and their participation and mobilization to access the benefits is a key to make this campaign a huge success. SEHAT is a unique health scheme which does not discriminate and brings out the spirit of social equality in the health sector. Good health and well-being of people is the ultimate aim of the government. J&K is one of the first UTs to implement the 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage'.

As per the data available, till date 60 lakh Golden cards have been generated and 16.36 lakhs (80%) families have been reg-

istered with at least one family member verified under PM-JAY and AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme. Removing the burden out-of-pocket expenses, PMJAY aims to make the entire process of paying for healthcare cashless. All public and empanelled private hospitals have been directed to not charge any extra payment for medical care from all PMJAY beneficiaries to reduce corruption or delay in services.

Under AB-PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT, during the current policy period, 147582 cases have already been benefited amounting to Rs. 221.66 Cr, out of which Rs. 129.83 Cr have already been paid to the hospitals by the insurance company, thus ensuring free of cost specialized treat-

ment to all.

Additionally, the beneficiaries under this scheme can seek treatment across India. This scheme covers pre-existing illness and makes mandatory treatment in all public hospitals. Since the scheme covers such a large population, it will be purchasing services from private healthcare providers. This scheme also encourages the production of more affordable healthcare equipment and drugs.

As health insurance is a financial necessity for everyone, this scheme will certainly improve the quality of life of the weaker sections of the society by ensuring they get timely care and finances to tackle their health issues.

ACB Files Charges Against Patwari In Graft Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday filed a charge sheet in a local court in Doda against a revenue official who was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir about five years ago, an official said. The charge sheet was filed against the then Patwari, Chatroo block, Toufeeq Ahmad in the court of special judge anti-corruption Doda, an ACB official said. He said a case was registered in 2017 on the basis of a complaint that some revenue officials are demanding bribes from him after he cut down a tree. Initially, the Tehsildar allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 but later the bribe money was settled at Rs 10,000, the official said, adding the Patwari was caught red-handed while receiving the first installment of Rs 5000 from the complainant. After completion of the investigation, the case was processed and after obtaining government sanction, the case was chargesheeted in the competent court for judicial determination, the official said, adding the next date of hearing has been fixed for March 23.

India Plans To Host Chess Olympiad That's Been Moved Out Of Moscow

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The All India Chess Federation (AICF) on Saturday said it will be bidding to host the 44th Chess Olympiad later this year after the prestigious event was moved out of Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.

The Chess Olympiad is a biennial event in which teams from some 190 countries compete over a two-week period. The 2022 edition was supposed to take place in Moscow from July 26 July to August 8.

"Yeah, we are bidding for the chess Olympiad this year. The budget for the event would be USD 10 million (about Rs 75 crore)," AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan told PTI.

On Friday, FIDE (the International Chess Federation) decided to move the Chess Olympiad and all other official competitions planned in Russia in the wake of the country's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.

The other events that were moved away from Russia are the first Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities and the 93rd FIDE Congress.

FIDE is said to be already working on finding alternative



dates and locations for these events.

"...the rapidly deteriorating geopolitical situation has forced the FIDE Council to make this difficult move. During its extraordinary meeting, held today, Friday, February 25, it was decided that all official competitions planned would be moved from Russia," FIDE had stated.

If India gets the nod to host the Olympiad, it would be the second major world event to be held in the country after the World Championship match in 2013 between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen, the current world No.1.

The invasion of Ukraine has led to a slew of sporting cancellations in Russia with Formula One suspending the Russian Grand Prix, UEFA moving the Champions League final out of St Petersburg and Poland refusing to play the country in a World Cup qualifier.

Poland, Sweden Refuse To Play Russia In World Cup Playoffs



Agencies

WARSAW: Poland's refusal to play its World Cup qualifier against Russia next month in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine gained wider support when Sweden followed with its own plans to protest to FIFA on Saturday.

Polish football federation president Cezary Kulesza announced Poland's decision and said it was in talks with other federations to present a unified position to FIFA, which is responsible for the March 24 game in Moscow.

"No more words, time to act!" Kulesza wrote on Twitter, adding the move was prompted by the "escalation of the aggression."

Poland captain Robert Lewandowski and goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny were among those supporting the decision, with the Bayern Munich striker saying "we can't pretend that nothing is happening."

Sweden, a potential opponent of Russia in next month's playoffs, later joined Poland in declaring its national team would not play a match against the Russians regardless of where it takes place.

"The illegal and deeply unjust invasion of Ukraine currently makes all football fixtures with

Russia impossible," said Karl-Erik Nilsson, the Swedish federation's chairman. "We therefore urge FIFA to decide that the playoff matches in March in which Russia participates will be canceled."

The winner of the Poland-Russia match is due to host Sweden or the Czech Republic on March 29 for a place at the World Cup being played in Qatar from Nov. 21-Dec. 18.

"We have a hard time believing," Nilsson added, "that FIFA will not follow our call. Russia can not join as long as this madness continues."

Nilsson is also first vice president at UEFA which has stripped Russia of hosting the Champions League final in St. Petersburg in May. UEFA decided Friday to move that game to Paris.

Lewandowski, Poland's all-time leading scorer and winner of FIFA's best-player award for the past two years, supported Kulesza's announcement.

"I can't imagine playing a match with the Russian National Team in a situation when armed aggression in Ukraine continues," Lewandowski said on Twitter. "Russian footballers and fans are not responsible for this, but we can't pretend that nothing is happening." (AP)

Spurs Rip Through Leeds' Frail Defense In 4-0 Win In EPL

Agencies

LEEDS: Tottenham became the latest team to rip through Leeds' fragile defense, winning 4-0 at Elland Road on Saturday to give manager Antonio Conte something to smile about this time.

Matt Doherty, Dejan Kulusevski and Harry Kane scored goals in the opening 27 minutes and Leeds' players were booed off at halftime.

Son Heung-min added a fourth in the 85th minute, running onto an exquisite long pass from Kane to finish past goalkeeper Illan Meslier, and it was the 20th goal that Leeds has conceded in five games in February. That's a Premier League record for goals allowed for a single month.

The win saw Tottenham bounce back from a 1-0 loss at Burnley on Wednesday, after which an emotional Conte cast doubt on his own ability to get Tottenham competing for titles and even questioned his future at the club.



While Spurs climbed into seventh place and are still well in the fight for the Champions League qualification spots, Leeds is just three points above the bottom three and undoubtedly embroiled in a relegation scrap.

Since drawing 3-3 at Aston Villa, Leeds has lost 3-0 at Everton, 4-2 at home to Manchester United, 6-0 at Liverpool and now been beaten heavily by Tottenham, with manager Marcelo Bielsa refusing to eschew his attacking philosophy that can appear naive against the big teams.

Kashmir's Wushu Player Sadia Tariq Wins Gold In Moscow

PM Modi, Advisor Khan, DYSS, JKSC applaud the athlete

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley's star Wushu athlete Sadia Tariq has won gold at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship taking place in the Russian capital from February 22 to 28.

Representing India at the championship, the 15-year-old won the top prize by defeating her Russian opponent. Srinagar-born Sadia defeated opponents from Kazakhstan, Czech Republic and Russia on her way to the top.

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi took to Twitter to applaud the youth. He tweeted:

"Congratulations to Sadia Tariq on winning the Gold medal at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship. Her success will inspire many budding athletes. Wishing her the very best for her future endeavours."

Advisor to LG and Vice President Sports Council Feroz Khan greeted the player for winning gold medal in Moscow

Wushu Stars Championship held in Russia this week.

"We are proud of Sadiq Tariq for bringing laurels for the country at the International arena by winning gold medal in

ment, Alok Kumar, also congratulated Tariq and Sports Council.

Advisor Khan also congratulated National Chief Coach Wushu and CEO, Kuldeep Handoo, President J&K Wushu Association, Vijay Saraf for training Sadia and her colleagues.

Advisor Khan thanked MYAS and the Sports Authority of India for sanctioning, facilitating and ensuring participation of Indian team in Moscow Wushu Stars championship.

He hoped that Sadia Tariq will perform better in Youth Asian Games slated to be held in the month of December in China.

In her felicitation message, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, said that Jammu and Kashmir government under the dynamic leadership of LG Manoj Sinha, is rendering full support to all those youngsters who are interested in sports activities and aspiring to pursue career in sports activities.



Moscow Wushu Stars Championship," Khan asserted.

He said that India especially Jammu and Kashmir is proud of 15-year-old Sadiq Tariq for her brilliant performance in the international level tournament.

Principal Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Depart-

J&K 190 For 4 As Karnataka Eye Outright Win In Ranji Trophy

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Karnataka reduced Jammu & Kashmir to 190 for 4 in the second innings having set them a mammoth 508-run target on the third day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match here on Saturday.

Skipper Ian Dev Singh Chauhan (batting on 65) and Abdul Samad (21 batting) were at the crease with J & K needing a further 318 runs for an unlikely win.

Prasidh Krishna, who had taken six wickets in J & K's first innings, got the first breakthrough for Karnataka with the scalp of Qamran Iqbal (4).

Shreyas Gopal picked up two wickets - Jatin Wadhwan (15) and Shubham Singh Pundir (9) to reduce the opposition to 57 for 3 before Fazil Rashid (65) and Ian Singh fought back with a 79-run stand for the fourth wicket.

After the exit of Rashid, the J & K captain and the highly rated Abdul Samad put on 63 runs and ensured that there were no further setbacks for the team.

Earlier, resuming at 128 for 2, Karnataka went on the offensive and added 170 runs in 29 overs with Karun Nair adding 71 (not out) to his brilliant



knock of 175 in the first innings and K V Siddharth hitting 72.

In the other match in the group, Railways secured the crucial first innings lead by replying with 525 for 9 at stumps against Pondicherry, which had scored 342.

Arindam Ghosh, who scored a ton in the first match last week, continued his good run, making 100 while Mohammed Saif fell agonisingly short of ton, being dismissed for 99.

Ghosh and Saif added 146 runs in 276 balls and took the game away from Pondicherry, whose bowlers had kept the Railways batters in check on Friday.

Brief scores: Stumps Day 3 :

Karnataka 302 all out in 103.1 overs 298 for 3 declared in 71 overs (K V Siddharth 72, Karun Nair 71 not out, R Samarth 62, Abid Mushtaq 3 for 65) vs Jammu and Kashmir 93 all out in 29.5 overs (Prasidh Krishna 6 for 35) and 190 for four in 59 overs (Fazil Rashid 65 (140b, 8x4, 2x6), Ian Dev Singh Chauhan 65 batting (114b, 8x4, 2x6), Shreyas Gopal three for 90).

Pondicherry 342 vs Railways 525 for nine in 151.4 overs (Vivek Singh 92, Shivam Chaudhary 51, Arindam Ghosh 100 (193b, 12x4, 2x6), Mohammed Saif 99 (190b, 7x4, 3x6), Upendra Yadav 60 (82b, 9x4, 1x6), Yuvraj Singh 46, Sagar Udeshi three for 144, Pavan Deshpande two for 74).

IOC Urges Sports Bodies To Cancel Events In Russia, Belarus

Agencies

GENEVA: The International Olympic Committee urged sports bodies Friday to cancel or move all events they plan to hold in Russia and Belarus, and stop using the countries' flags and national anthems.

The request from the Olympic body came after UEFA moved the Champions League final from St. Petersburg to suburban Paris, and after the governing body of skiing and Formula One pulled upcoming races from Russia.

Volleyball, shooting and hockey all have world championships scheduled to be held in Russia. Hockey is a favorite sport of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his home city of St. Petersburg is scheduled to host the worlds in May 2023.

Russia breached the Olympic Truce by invading Ukraine on Thursday, only four days after the closing ceremony of the Winter Games in Beijing. Some of the Russian troops entered Ukraine from Belarus, Russia's ally.

It was the third Russian breach of the Olympic Truce in the past 14 years. Russia invaded Georgia during the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and annexed Crimea shortly after the end of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The IOC statement signaled a toughening of the Olympic body's position on Russia. IOC president Thomas Bach has long been seen as forgiving of Russian doping scandals and too close to Putin.

Bach implored countries to "give peace a chance" in his opening and closing ceremony speeches in Beijing as Putin - who went to China and attended the opening ceremony on Feb. 4 - sent troops and military hardware to the borders of Ukraine in Russia and Belarus.

The IOC has ultimate authority over the Olympics but recognizes the independence of the governing bodies of individual sports to organize their own events and pick hosts.

Those bodies, the IOC said Friday, "should take the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian and Belarussian governments into account and give the safety

and security of the athletes absolute priority."

Russia's national soccer team is also scheduled to host a World Cup qualifying playoff match against Poland on March 24 in Moscow, with a second home game five days later if it wins. FIFA is still weighing if or where Russia can play, though UEFA said Friday the country's teams could not host games in its competitions.

In May, Russia is scheduled to host a week-long conference of global sports officials in Ekaterinburg for one of their first in-person gatherings since the pandemic started. That event, known as Sportaccord, is likely to be cancelled in the coming days.

The governing body of volleyball has pressed ahead with staging this year's men's world championships from Aug. 26-Sept. 11 in cities across Russia even though the tournament falls within the two-year period of sanctions in fallout from the country's state-backed doping scandal.

Among the sanctions imposed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in December 2020 in the doping scandal was that Russia should lose hosting rights to world championships. However, the sanction came with a loophole stating "unless it is legally or practically impossible to do so." (AP)

Virat Kohli's 100th Test Match Will Be Behind Closed Doors

Press Trust of India

MOHALI: The BCCI won't be allowing any spectators for the upcoming first Test between India and Sri Lanka starting here March 4, which is incidentally legendary Virat Kohli's landmark 100th Test, a Punjab Cricket Association official stated.

The decision has been taken in the wake of the COVID-19 cases in and around Mohali while also taking into account that most of the Indian players will be linking up with their respective IPL squads just after the end of the second Test in a bubble-to-bubble transfer.

"Yes, apart from the people, who are on duty for the Test match, we are not allowing any general spectators as per the directive of BCCI," senior PCA treasurer RP Singla told PTI on Saturday.

"Still there are fresh COVID cases emerging in and around Mohali, so it's better we take all the safety protocols. Obviously, the fans miss out because an inter-



national match at Mohali is happening after almost three years," Singla said.

However, PCA is putting up billboards across the stadium to celebrate the momentous occasion in Kohli's glittering cricket career.

"We will be putting up big billboards and our PCA Apex Council has also decided to felicitate Virat. We will either do it at the start of the game or at the end depending on BCCI directive."

PSL Final: Lahore Qalandars Book Date With Multan Sultans



Agencies

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars reached the Pakistan Super League final after a thrilling come-from-behind six-run victory over Islamabad United.

Lahore, playing for its first title, will meet the defending champion Multan Sultans in the final on Sunday. Lahore lost its only previous final appearance in 2020.

Two-time champion Islamabad needed only 39 off the last five overs with five wickets in hand but, in a sensational collapse, lost the last three wickets for just one run to be bowled out for 162 in 19.4 overs.

Earlier, David Wiese's rapid 28 off eight balls lifted Lahore's total to 168-7.

Wiese bowled the critical final

over against Islamabad and conceded only one run.

No. 9 batsman Mohammad Wasim refused singles off Wiese's first two deliveries then was run out while attempting to run two. Last man Waqas Maqsood was caught at deep midwicket, and Lahore erupted in joy.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf brought Lahore back in the game when top-scorer Azam Khan (40) was run out off a direct throw in the 14th over, and Alex Hales (38) followed after being caught at extra cover. Rauf took out Asif Ali on 25 in the penultimate over.

When Lahore batted, it was generally contained until Wiese smashed three sixes and a four in left-arm fast bowler Maqsood's last over of the innings which went for 27 runs and gave Lahore just enough runs to defend.

New Zealand 157-5 In Reply To South Africa's 364 In 2nd Test



Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: The tail wagged, then Kagiso Rabada knocked the top off New Zealand's order as South Africa asserted itself on the second day of the second Test Saturday in a reversal of form after its crushing first-Test defeat.

New Zealand was 157-5 at stumps in reply to the Proteas' solid first innings of 364 which was inflated by a 62-run ninth-wicket partnership between Keshan Maharaj and Marco Jansen. Colin de Grandhomme struck an unbeaten half-century from 36 balls, then blocked out several overs to be 54 not out when play ended in gathering gloom at nearly 7 p.m. Daryl Mitchell was 29 not out in an unbroken partnership of 66 for New Zealand's sixth wicket.

The second day belonged to South Africa, though the first session and the last hour of the day didn't. South Africa resumed its first innings at 238-3 after gaining the upper hand on the first day

but New Zealand took 4-60 before lunch to re-balance the match.

South Africa regained the upper hand when Jansen made 37 and Maharaj 36 in a partnership which lifted it to 364, better than par after it had chosen to bat on winning the toss. The Proteas were bowled out for 95 and 111 at the same venue, Hagley Oval, in the first Test.

Their decision to bat was a declaration of confidence in themselves and their first innings effort was a good one, led by Sarel Erwee's maiden Test century.

Rabada put South Africa well on top when he dismissed captain Tom Latham in the first over of New Zealand's first innings and Will Young in the fifth over to leave New Zealand 9-2.

South Africa-born Devon Conway fell to Jansen when New Zealand was 51 and first test century-maker Henry Nicholls was out to the same bowler when he was 39 and New Zealand was 83-4. It was 91-5 when Tim Blundell was bowled by Rabada without offering a shot.