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P3 CITY

GOVT COMMITTED TO ENSURE JUSTICE FOR ALL: KIREN RIJIJU

SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER

Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said the vision of the Government of India is to ensure justice and equal benefits to the last man standing in row

COMPARISON AMONG SIBLINGS: AN OPEN INVITATION TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

In his book Siyasi Muslims: A story of Political Islams in India, 2019, Hilal Ahmed analyses the Muslim politics in India through contemporary debates. The first thing that the book does is that it challenges the homogeneity of Indian Muslims. As a result, it



P7 STATE



More rains lashed Kashmir Valley but eluded Jammu in the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday. The weatherman has forecast isolated



AMARNATH YATRA **Review Meet To Be Held In J&K Today**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A high-level meeting of top administration and security officers of Jammu and Kashmir is expected to be held in the Union Territory on Friday to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, according to officials.

This will be the first security review meet for the annual pilgrimage that is scheduled to start on June 30 after the coronavirus pandemic enforced a two-year break. A total of 110 companies or

about 10,000 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel are expected to be deployed for the yatra to the shrine located at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

The meeting will be held on April 15 and is expected to be chaired by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, officials said.

Union Home Secy, **IB Director Arrive** In Srinagar

n Home Secretary jay Kumar Bhalla and Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar arrived in Srinagar on Thursday to review the preparations for Amarnath Yatra. According to government sources, Bhalla will hold a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh and other officials of the J&K administration to see that all necessary arrangements are in place before More on P6

Officers from the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), intelligence the Union Territory administration, police and commanders of CAPFs like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Border Security Force (BSF) will attend the meeting. More on P6

4 Local LeT 4:33 4:32 **Militants Killed Observer News Service SRINAGAR:** Four recently

joined militants were killed in an encounter with government forces in Shopian district of South Kashmir, police said Thursday.

A joint team of police and army's 44RR launched a cordon and search operation Badigam, Zainapora on in Wednesday on the basis of specific input about the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said.

As the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the militants present fired indiscriminately upon them, police spokesman said.

The joint search party retaliated to the fire leading to an encounter. He said the CRPF personnel also joined the operation.

In the ensuing encounter, the spokesperson said, four local militants affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed. He identified the killed mili-

tants as Aaqib Farooq Thoker,

3 Soldiers Killed On Way To Encounter Site

hree army men were killed and five others injured on Thursday when the vehicle carrying them towards the gunfight spot in south Kashmir's Shopian district over turned. According to a defence spokesperson, the vehicle carrying soldiers towards the encounter site Badigam village in Zainapora overturned near Kanipora leaving eight army personnel injured. All the injured, he said, were More on P6

IGP SAID THAT HUNT FOR THEIR SSOCIATES LIKE AIJAZ of Pulwama is on

Waseem Ahmed Thoker both residents of Heffkhuri and Farooq Ahmad Bhat and Shouqeen Ahmad Mir, both residents of Sugan in Shopian district.

As per police records, the spokesperson said, all the killed militants were categorized and part of groups involved in several cases including attacks on Police, security forces and "civilian atrocities".

While interacting with ANI, the IGP Kashmi, Vijay Kumar said that killed militants were active in Shopian and adjacent areas of Pulwama.

"They were involved in 6 terror crimes including attacks on outside labourers. Killed terrorist Aaqib Farooq Thoker

was involved in snatching of 12 Bore Rifle from JK bank guard Murran TP branch in which the bank guard Abdul Hamid Wani of Tahab got injured. He was also involved in Case FIRs 25/2022 & 26/2022 of PS Litter pertaining to attack on driver namely Deeraj Dutt resident of Pathankot More on P6

Muslim neighbours mourn in silence outside the house of slain driver Satish Kumar Singh in Kakran village of Kulgam district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Rajput Driver's Killing Leaves Community In Shock, Despair

Press Trust Of India

KULGAM: The killing of a Rajput driver by a militant has generated a sense of fear and uncertainty among members of the tiny community in Kakran village in Kulgam district who have stayed on in Kashmir Valley despite decades of militancy but are now considering leaving for a safer place.

Satish Kumar Singh, 50, was shot dead at his home on Wednesday evening, amid a string of targeted attacks on members of minority communities in Kashmir Valley.

At the Singh residence a day later, one could hear wails and shrieks as his family members

Security Agencies Will Handle Attacks On **Minorities: Rijiju**



An inconsolable daughter breaks down as her father Satish Kumar Singh's body is being taken away for final rites. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

and neighbours were yet to Singh's Muslim neighbours come to terms with their loss. were shell-shocked More on P6

nion Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said normalcy has eturned to Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. and asserted the recent attacks on minorities in Kashmir will be handled by security agencies. The Union minister said there were still some incidents of violence in Kashmir but such things are common to the entire country. "But, broadly, the More on P6

55

Man In Budgam



Teen Found Dead In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A teenager on Thursday was found dead under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said. 19-year-old Murtaza Rengrez of Bongam Kulgam was found dead on the banks of a river in Katrasoo village of the district More on P6







SRINAGAR: A non-local labourer was killed and another was injured when a framed iron structure for construction of a ring road in Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district sank on Thursday. Official sources said that two labourers- Lal Chand son of Jagir Chand and More on P6

Employee Suspended For Assaulting Tehsildar

RAJOURI: The government employee allegedly involved in the assault on Tehsildar Sunderbani has been suspended while police have registered two back-to-back FIRs after the revenue official suffered injuries during the scuffle. "On Wednesday, when the Sunderbani administration was going to launch an antiencroachment More on P6

and they will be neutralised soon. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation."

Covid-19 Crackdown: Govt Collected Rs 1 Crore Fine In Srinagar On Red Cross Receipts ICRC Kashmir Chapter Deprived Of Nearly 60% Collected Fines, RTI Discloses

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has collected over Rs 1 crore as fine from people in Srinagar for violating Covid norms: however, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Kashmir chapter was deprived of nearly 60 percent of the collected fines, an RTI application has revealed. Prominent activist Dr. Raja



to learn about the disbursement

of funds collected in Kashmir as a fine for Covid violations.

The RTI reply, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, offers perspective on the frenzy following J&K administration's drive to fine people for violating Covid norms on red Cross' receipts and also for allegedly resorting to coercion and threats to collect donations for the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) during More on P6

DEOGHAR ACCIDENT FALLOUT **Marathon Safety Audit Of** Kashmir Ropeways Soon: JKCCC

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) will carry out a marathon safety audit of each ropeway projects in the Union Territory (UT) to avoid any untoward incident.

Talking to Kashmir Observer Mohammad Akbar Wani, Managing director Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation said they have received a circular from the central government and will carry out the operation soon. It may be noted, the Centre on

that it was just something that in-

wife Saira told her sister-in-law

But after his marriage, Imran's

WASIM KAKROO, A SRINAGAR-BASED

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, opines that online

gambling becomes an obsessional process and

terested him for a little while.

Tuesday asked all states to carry out a safety audit of each ropeway project and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with such emergencies in the wake of the Deoghar ropeway accident.

At least three people died in Jharkhand after two cable cars collided with each other due to a technical glitch on the ropeway. Over 40 people were trapped in cable cars mid-air.

In a communication to all states and Union territories, Home Secretary More on P6

led to a dispute in the family as

well as with his friends because he

couldn't pay them back the mon-

ey he had borrowed from them.

'We're Suffering': How Online Gambling Is Ruining Families In Kashmir

TabiaMasoodi. Al Misda Masoom

t was for the fourth time Sara placed the tea cup in front of her son Imran in an irritated tone and with a clear warning: "Finish it before it gets cold!"

But despite this 'storm in a teacup', her son remained engrossed in his phone for "earning fast money online in order to provide a good living for his family and himself".

Imran started investing in online trading and gambling in 2018. It went well for the first few times. He thought he had figured it all out.

"It felt a little odd the way he was continuously on his phone in the beginning," Sara says.

"And then he started borrowing money from friends and family." The mother was getting

anxious as there was a complete shift in Imran's behaviour. From waking up late to running late to the office to roaming around lost in his phone, was all-new for everyone.

"It was a shock for all of us to see a hard-working and wellestablished person like him doing such activities," says Dua,

Imran's sister.

abroad, he had returned home with a plan to start his own business. Everything which Imran had planned went accordingly and in no time he started his own restaurant.

In the initial years of his business, he earned more than he could imagine, brought properties and luxurious cars. But soon

I USED TO GAMBLE SMALL **AMOUNTS** of money, so if I would lose, it wouldn't make a big deal," says Ahmad. But little did he know that in the long run, he would be losing money in thousands.

it all turned to dust.

Imran started to sell these Imran used to work in a wellknown foreign MNC-where he properties and took a loan of had earned a good fortune. lakhs of rupees stating that he After spending some years needs the money for his marriage.

wonder what he did with that money.

on his marriage from the money Apart from his parents, the rest he borrowed because all the wedding expenditures were of the family knew about his ontaken by his father," recalls Sara. line gambling and trading but they "But now, after almost two didn't realise the severity of his addiction. They were in the illusion years of his marriage, I still

addiction to online gambling and his urge to earn money quickly.

"He became a compulsive liar and used to say such things that I couldn't understand whether to laugh or be worried," says Saira. "He once said that he does not play these games in a conscious state." Imran's addiction eventually

And to sort out the matters he ended up taking more money from one person to pay another and it continued.

Wasim Kakroo, a Srinagarpsychologist, based clinical opines that online gambling becomes an obsessional process and one has difficulty in handling emotions More on P6

that he had lost Rs. 10 lakh in his

one has difficulty in handling emotions related to the act. "There's a proper diagnosis of the problem and it's called pathological gambling."

UP Labourer Dies In Mishap

Muzaffar Bhat had filed an RTI

with the Jammu and Kashmir

Government in March this year

"He didn't even use a penny



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ازعدالت ایگزیکیٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول (تحصیلداراننت ناگ) بااجلاس عمرگلز ارصاحب درخواست منجانب: شریفه بانو بوده بشیراحمد شاعر ساکنهٔ خواجه میرطی قصبه باغات انت ناگ درخواست منجانب: شریفه بیانویتوه بشیراحمد شاعر ساکنهٔ خواجه میرطی قصبه باغات انت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ فوتگی سرتفکیک بنام : _ بشیراحمه شاعر ولد مُصطیل شاعر اشتهار بمرادآگایی هرخاص وعام -معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائلہ مذکورہ بالانے عدالت مذامیں ایک درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیاہے۔ سائلہ کے شوہر کا تاریخ فو تکل 2020-04-04 ہے اس ضمن میں سرٹفکیٹ فو تگی نكالنيكا خواہ بے لېرو این برای کے ایک کے جوہ جوں کے ان کن کی کر سیک نكالنيكا خواہ بے لېدا اسر نفكيف مذكورہ كوا جراء كرنے ميں اگر سی شخص كوكونی بھی عذر یا . اعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندرا ندرد دران دفتر ی اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ ا گیزیکیٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول (تحصیلداراننت ناگ rna



Climate Change Can Lead To More Food Poisoning

360info Te may not be able to

stop food being contaminated, but computer models could help us predict where the next big risk might be. Contaminated food kills more than 420,000 people every year. Now, scientists are turning to predictive computer modelling to help us be better prepared

for it. Food contamination can happen at almost every level from farm to fork. Contamination can spread from bacteria entering animal feeds, by being in contact with dust or animal faeces, through infections transferred during slaughter and food processing, or from inappropriate storage.

Climate change has created extreme and rapid changes in air and water temperatures, impacted the frequency and intensity of rain, and amplified humidity, altering the production of food with grave consequences. While it's difficult to predict the

direct links due to the range of factors involved, changes in the environment have allowed more possibilities of transmission between animals and humans. Ex-



treme weather events like floods for aflatoxin (poisonous carcinogens from fungus) contamination and droughts can contaminate soil, water and animal feeds with in maize a main source of grains. chemicals from sewage and run-While in California, United States, offs from industrial and agriculand parts of Canada, outbreaks of tural land containing toxins and E. coli found in romaine lettuce may have been from contaminat-A warmer climate and limited rain ed runoffs flowing into produce in already resource-strapped counfields after heavy rainfall.

Contamination can also be caused by close interaction between domestic and wild animals in wet markets or when

arms overlap with forests, causing spill-over events. Bushmeat is also a well-established source for food-borne zoonotic diseases such as Ebola.

Climate change induced food scarcity can exacerbate the consumption of bushmeat or unsafe foods, and the expansion of farmlands into forests.Designing better interventions will require a holistic model which can integrate and assess the many variables that continuously interact and influence different outcomes.

Researchers from York University, Canada, have developed a conceptual model that can capture the complex, unpredictable and dynamically evolving interactions across food-borne zoonotic diseases and their influencing factors. These include analysing the relationship between extreme weather events, environmental degradation, food supply chains, food safety practices, disaster management and domestic public health policy.

Computer modelling simulations based on these interactions can develop potential risk scenarios for outbreaks. For example, the model could predict a potential contamination risk of crops during a heavy rainfall event, using the proximity between cropland sewage systems and the lay of the land.

Due to the increasingly interconnected nature of our global food systems, additional transparency through decentralisation of data is critical to minimise errors in data collection and management, which may influence the model's predictive abilities. Using blockchain technology to store data can enhance transparency, standardisation, and governance making the model reliable and versatile to users ranging from community members to different levels of governments.

The peer-to-peer network-based management system in blockchain can also promote collaboration and trust in a growing issue which affects us all.

Modelling the effects of climate change on food-borne diseases will be a useful tool for building resilient national and global food safety systems. The proposed model can be a game-changer in the fight against food insecurity by boosting food safety and facilitating interventions that are socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable.

Office Of The Principal Govt. Degree College Tulail

Dated: 13/04/2022

No:-GDCT/2022/43

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dersigned during working hours on all working days. The tenders shall reach this office by or before 19-04-2022.

Principal E-mail ID: - principaladrtulail@gmial.com Contact No: -700636383 : Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani (Principal) 8825054782 : Mr. Tariq Ahmad Bhat (Asst. Prof.) media hub

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It is for the information for the general public that I Mir Ammar S/o Shabir Ahmad Mir R/o Sarnal Payeen Anantnag have applied for renewal of passport bearing No K5571368 which to expire 29/04/2022 While processing the case a passport Seva Kendra Anantnag it has however been observed that the Jammu and Kashmir state board of school education while issuing Date of Birth DOB Certificate in my favour has mentioned name of my father as Shabir Ahmad only instead of his full name Shabir Ahmad Mir which is recorded in all other certificates issued by the Board and other authorities. If any person has any objection to the actual name of my father as Shabir Ahmad Mir instead of Shabir Ahmad or to the renewal of my passport in the name of Mir Ammar S/o Shabir Ahmad Mir R/o Sarnal Payeen Anantnag he may file the same in the office of passport Seva Kendra Anantnag within a period of seven day for the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir **Office Of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir**

pesticides.

tries such as Malawi, not only have

had a detrimental impact on the

availability of food, but also cre-

ated more favourable conditions

PUBLIC NOTICE

As a sequel to the government instructions conveyed vide TC/ JK/P&S/597-99 Dated 01-02-2016, all the owners of vehicles, government or public (commercial and non-commercial) were to have High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) affixed in their vehicles before 16-07-2017. Although a good number of vehicles have already fitted these number plates in their vehicles, yet it has been seen that there are still a a large number of owners who have not taken the government instructions seriously and as such continue to ply their vehicle without these plates which is against the spirit of the instructions issued in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

All such owners who have not affixed the HSRPs in their vehicles yet are hereby advised to do so from the authorized vendors without any further ado. Any deviation or non-compliance I this regard shall attract severe action and penalty

Vaccination Greatly Lowers Infectious Viral Load In Covid Patients: Study

Press Trust Of India

Washington- Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 may significantly lower infectious viral load in people infected with the SARS-CoV-2, according to a study. The researchers noted that measuring the viral load of people infected with SARS-CoV-2 is one of the main factors in evaluating the infectiousness of CO-VID-19 patients.

Viral load can be influenced by the infecting SARS-CoV-2 variant as well as the vaccination status of the patient, they said.

The team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) in Switzerland measured the infectious viral load of nearly 600 symptomatic patients to detect possible differences between the original virus, Delta and Omicron sublineage BA.1, as well as according to vaccination status. The study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, found that Delta causes a higher viral load than the original virus and the Omicron variant. For Delta and Omicron breakthrough infections, vaccination drastically reduces the viral load, according to the researchers. In the case of Omicron, however, the decrease was only observed after three doses of vaccine, they said. The researchers also found that Omicron's very high infectiousness is seemingly related to factors other than viral load alone. The findings highlight the benefit of vac-cination for public health in addition to individual protection against the severe form of the disease, they said. The diagnosis of COVID-19 consists of a PCR test performed on a nasopharyngeal or salivary swab. "This test is very effective in identifying infected people, but does not indicate whether they are infectious, that is,

capable of transmitting the virus to other people," said Isabella Eckerle, professor at UNIGE Faculty of Medicine, who led the research.

"However, the notion of contagiousness is essential for deciding on collective prevention measures, such as periods of isolation, Eckerle said.

PCR tests can only detect the presence of viral RNA, but do not indicate whether the virus is still intact and able to spread. the researchers said.

The researchers measured the infectious viral load of three groups of patients during the first five symptomatic days to compare the viral load caused by the original virus (118 samples), the Delta variant (293 samples) and the Omicron sublineage BA.1 (154 samples).

They also analysed whether a significant difference in viral load could be detected in vaccinated and unvaccinated individu-

RNA

Mir Ammar S/o Shabir Ahmad Mir R/o Sarnal Payeen Anantnag

rna

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als.

The study found that the overall infectious viral load for the Delta cohort was significantly higher than that of the group with the original virus. However, people infected by Delta who received two doses of mRNA vaccine had a significantly lower infectious viral load than unvaccinated people, they said. "For the Omicron cohort, contrary to what can be assumed given its rapid spread, the infectious viral load was overall lower than that of the Delta cohort," said Eckerle.

The researchers found that people infected with Omicron who had received three doses of the vaccine had their viral load decreased.

People who received two doses only had no benefit in this regard compared to unvaccinated people, they said. "This is immunologically consistent: many vaccines require three doses spaced several months apart to induce a sustained immune response, such as that against Hepatitis B virus," Eckerle added.



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20 Academicians **Shortlisted For The Position Of** VC KU

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 20 applicants have been shortlisted for the post of Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor, according to the news agency KNT. The Search Committee will be holding its interaction with the shortlisted candidates on the 20th of this month preferably in New Delhi in offline mode.

A KU administrative official said that all the shortlisted candidates are academicians from different academic and research institutions in the country, including AMU, MANU Hyderabad, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jammu University, National Institute of Technology Srinagar and others.

Five senior professors from Kashmir University are also among the shortlisted candidates from amongst more than 130 applicants who had applied for the coveted position.

Those shortlisted from KU, according to the official, include Professor Ghulam Mohiuddin Sangmi, Dean Colleges, Professor Farooq Ahmad Masoodi, Dean Academic Affairs, Professor Nilofar Hassan Khan, former Dean Colleges and presently professor Institute of Home Sciences who superannuated on January 31 this year, Professor Sheikh Javaid Ahmad, former VC Cluster University Srinagar and presently professor Department of Physics and Professor Akbar Masood, VC Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri who has been formerly professor of Biochemistry at KU.

The Search Committee headed by Dr Pankaj Mittal will be interacting with the shortlisted candidates for two days (April 20 and April 21) and after that submit a panel of three names to Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha who is chancellor of all the universities in the Union Territory, except the two central universities. Two other members of the KU VC Search Committee are Professor Mohammad Miyan, former VC MANU and Professor Najma Akthar, VC Jamia Millia Islamia University New Delhi. The Chancellor will select one candidate from the panel of three, sources said.

According to sources, the Search Committee has mainly considered the research, teaching, and academic achievements of the applicants during the shortlisting process, leading to the elimination of all the ineligible administrators from Kashmir University who had applied for the position despite not fulfilling these requirements. (KNT)



Tourists dressed in traditional Kashmiri attire pose for a picture at Nishat garden on Thursday. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

IMHANS Reaches Out To Families Who Lost Loved Ones To Covid

Agencies

Srinagar: Under a 'Kath Bath' programme, an initiative of The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) of GMC Srinagar to meet the families who lost their loved ones to Covid-19, the department has reached out to four families in Srinagar.

Dr Arshid Hussain, Professor of Psychiatry at GMC Srinagar said under this initiative of Kath Bath they have reached out to four families in Srinagar in the initial stage as of now.

One of the families is from downtown Srinagar. The husband and wife both work as government employees and days after they re-joined their offices after the first wave of Covid-19 subsided, the wife developed symptoms and was tested positive. She isolated herself but soon after her mother-in-law and father-in-law developed

symptoms. Both of them died of Covid related complications. Their death left the daughter-in-law feeling guilty that she was responsible for their deaths, Dr Hussain informed.

Another family, also from downtown, lost their grandfather in the first Covid wave. Their grandfather was a prominent person in the area who had helped all in his locality but nobody was allowed to offer his funeral prayers due to Covid restrictions, Dr Hussain said.

The family went through a lot of grief and regret that despite their grandfather having done good for all, nobody came to attend his funeral and they, too, couldn't give him the kind of farewell that he deserved.

"So, they were having stigma-related issues and two members of the family were having post-traumatic symptoms, as they were traumatised by the event," Dr Hussain said.

A family in Lal Bazaar area and another in Sonwar were fine and they were all ok, Dr Hussain said, adding that due to Ramadan, most of the people to whom they reached out said that they should visit after Eid.

"Some are even ready to come to SMHS for counselling. We have fixed a day in a week for it and one room has been kept available at SMHS so that all affected people themselves come to the hospital instead of us having to visit their residence," Dr Hussain said.

Officials said that under this initiative a team consisting of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a counsellor and a social worker are reaching out to families who have lost their loved ones to Covid-19.

'We are reaching out to families to motivate them to come forward and if they need, they can avail counselling besides psychiatric services," Dr Hussain said. (KNO)

DIAL-EMMA TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200 AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ⋌ RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh-(Open) **PRAYERS** FAJR 4:33 HIJRI **ZUHR** 12:32 CALENDAR ASR 5:11 13 Ramazan Magrib 7:05

This Day In History

1443

1632 - Battle of Rain; Swedes under Gustavus Adolphus defeat Count Tilly of the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War.

ISHA

8:30

- 1654 England & Netherlands sign peace treaty
- 1689 French King Louis XIV declares war on Spain
- 1697 Charles XII succeeds Charles XI as King of Sweden
- 1788 Britain, Netherlands & Prussia sign peace treatv
- 1858 Battle of Azimghur, Mexicans defeat Spanish loyalists
- 1865 Abraham Lincoln dies 9 hours after he is shot attending the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington
- 1892 General Electric Company formed by merger of Thomas Edison's General Electric Company with Thomson-Houston Electric Company, arranged by J. P. Morgan and incorporated in NY
- 1902 Rioting and arson continue in Russia with peasants plundering estates to find food.
- 1902 Russian minister of interior and head of secret police, Sipyengin, is assassinated by the 'Terror Brigade' of the Socialist Revolutionaries
- 1912 RMS Titanic sinks at 2:27 AM off Newfoundland as the band plays on, with the loss of between 1,490 and 1,635 people
- 1918 Georges Clémenceau publishes secret French/ Austrian documents
- 1923 Insulin becomes generally available for diabetics

Govt Committed To Ensure Justice For All: Kiren Rijiju

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said the vision of the Government of India is to ensure justice and equal benefits to the last man standing in row.

He made these remarks while inaugurating the Mega Legal Services and Awareness Camp organised by District Legal Services Authority and J&K Legal Services Authority under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority in collaboration with **District Administration Srinagar** at Khunmoh, Srinagar. The camp was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar.

The Union Minister who was Chief Guest on the occasion said that the government is obligated to provide justice to all sections of the society and said that J&K Legal Services Authority is doing a commendable job in this regard.

The Union Minister urged all the public authorities and institutions to connect with the marginalized and targeted sections of the society living below the line of poverty so as to provide different social welfare and poverty alleviation schemes being provided by

the Central and UT Government.

The Minister complimented the efforts of UT Administration and J&K Legal Services Authority for providing hassle free and unrestrictive services to the people and added that the Union Government and the UT administration is duty bound to provide justice to various sections of the society

Kiren Rijiju stressed for making every endeavour and effort to make availability of 'Justice for all' a reality as per the mandate of the Constitution. The minister said that access to justice is important for ensuring the protection of rights of the citizens under various enactments and Social Welfare Schemes. He further said that the government is regularly monitoring the implementation of the social services and welfare schemes being provided to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the ground level.

The Union Minister paid floral tribute to the portrait of Dr. B. R Ambedkar and inspected 25 stalls showcased by various government departments and banks. During the camp, 711 people were imparted benefits under different schemes of the Central Government and the Government of J&K.

Baisakhi Celebrated With Religious Fervor

Agencies

Srinagar: The Sikh community celebrated Baisakhi with religious fervor and traditional enthusiasm across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Keeping with the tradition, the Mughal gardens Nishat and Shalimar witnessed heavy rush of visitors. Harwan and the Tulip garden also saw heavy rush.

Bajan Keertans were per-

formed at Gurudawaras across Kashmir. The biggest function was held at Chatti Pathshahi, Kathi Darwaza. Rainawari here.

The Sikhs woke up early and visited Gurdwaras where langars or community feasts were arranged as part of charity on the day.

People also exchanged greetings with friends, neighbors and relatives. Children spent their day in parks and gardens.

Guruduwaras were decorated while a large number of Sikhs had also decorated their residential houses and localities.

Although Baisakhi is celebrated in various other northern states for a good harvest of Rabi crop, the Sikh community here celebrates the festival to mark the foundation of Khalsa Panth by the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji.(GNS)

the real name as RAFEEQA BEGUM. Since my passpost is expired on 07/12/2021, therefore I am applying for reissuance of passport as per my original 10th class certificate which is

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Mather's name has got inadvertently recorded in my passport as REFEEQA BEGUM PIR while as my school records

Name of applicant: ADIL ZEESHAN SHAH Father's Name: AB MAJEED PIR Mother's Name: RAFEEQA BEGUM

If any individual has any objection he or she may file the same to the passport officer within seven days of the publication of this public notice.

ADIL ZEESHAN SHAH S/o AB MAJEED PIR R/o: LANGATE, HANDWARA, (KUP) J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost "A Class" Contract Card somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same 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.

M.P Khursheed Ahmad Bhat Prop: Duwa constructions. S/o Gull Mohd Bhat

R/o Nipora Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mudasir Rashid Banday S/o: Abdul Rashid Banday R/o: Beerwah Budgam (Transferor) of LMV 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 7002.

Chasis number 48315 Engine no. 72077 Model 2011. in favour of Shri.. Saqib Rashid S/o. Abdul Rashid Shah R/o Drung Khag Budgam (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Beerwah

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.174 Dated 13/04/2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer **Budgam Kashmir**

- 1927 Switzerland & USSR agree to diplomatic relations
- 1940 British troops land at Narvik, Norway
 - 1945 British Army liberates Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen
 - 1945 US troops occupy concentration camp Colditz
 - 1948 1st Jewish-Arab military battle, arabs defeated
- 1948 Indian territory of Himachal Pradesh created
- 1959 Fidel Castro begins US goodwill tour
- 1969 North Korea shoots at US airplane above Japanese sea
- 1974 Military coup in Niger, president Diori Hamani deposed
- 1978 Great Britain performs nuclear test
- 1982 Apollo Computer announces DN400, DN420, & landscape display
- 1983 Tokyo Disneyland opens
- 1984 USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1991 Europe foreign ministers lift most remaining sanctions against S Afr
- 1992 The National Assembly of Vietnam adopts the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

From KO Archives

Leisure A No Longer A Pleasure For Kashmir Youth

Observer News Service

rna

RINAGAR: The youth in Kashmir are today severely handicapped when it comes to spending leisure time in an enriching and meaningful way, a Kashmir Observer report has found out.

The older generation had a better time in its youth than today's younger lot, who despite the myriad diversions are disposal, feels anxious and impatient at what it describes as severely shrinking space for recreation.

Evidently television, internet cafes and snooker clubs are no match for the colourful fairs at Badamwari, the acrobatics of an Afsar Khan at Edges or the antics of magicians in open grounds of which only memories exist in the minds of elders.

What the youth of today seem to be missing is the kind of active participation their parents and grandparents had by being associated with dramatic clubs, literary societies or sports bodies

The first ingredients of living satisfying life - the manner of spending leisure time- appears to be a gift that youth in Kashmir today have lost or never acquired in first place

(Kashmir Observer, 15 April, 2005)



OBSERVER

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Lingering Covid challenge

In India, the Covid cases have drastically reduced after the third wave that swept the country in January February. In the last twenty-four hours, just over 1000 new cases were reported and 26 people lost their lives to the disease. This at a time when there has been a fresh spread in some European and Asia-Pacific countries such as South Korea, Germany, Austria and New Zealand. Similarly, there has been a resurgence of the infection in China and Hong Kong, the two states which otherwise had reigned in the contagion. China which follows a zero-Covid strategy put nearly 30 million people under lockdown. The country used drones and robot dogs to force people to stay indoors.

Now there are reports that Omicron sub-variants are infecting people in developed countries like the US. The virulence and the transmissibility rate of this variant is still being determined. As a result, the US has extended the mask mandate through May 3 amid the Covid uptick. The US government has also renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency, allowing millions of Americans to keep getting free tests, vaccines and treatments for at least three more months.

So, it is premature to rule out more Covid waves and we have to be prepared for them. The world has been through several successive waves of the Covid-19 pandemic which have infected millions and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. With the abating of the Omicron wave which broke out early this year, there was a temporary sense of relief across the world. The economies have started re-opening in most parts of the world. There is a realization that the worst is over and the pandemic is gradually on its way out.

But fresh outbreaks have dispelled this illusion. It is not clear yet what would be the future shape of the Covid-19 virus that was unleashed on the world in February 2020 from Wuhan in China. Whether herd immunity will save us? More so, when some countries like China continue to follow Zero-Covid policy, something which is becoming difficult to achieve with more transmissible variants coming along. Whether the virus will become endemic in some milder form like our everyday cold. Or whether deadlier variants of the virus are on their way. Already there are reports of the sub-variants of Covid-19 rearing their head. And the fresh outbreaks across the world could be traced to them. So far, Covid-19 has turned out to be a very stubborn virus. Despite full vaccination by a large mass of people across the globe, the outbreaks have not stopped. Here's hoping that the new Covid variants become milder so that people can live with them. But meanwhile, the governments and the people can't afford to let their guard down. There is a need to continue to follow Covid precautions in public.



Ukrainian servicemen ride on a fighting vehicle in Kyiv. Photo by Vadim Ghirda/AP

Russia-Ukraine War Prolonged War of Attrition

Wajahat Qazi

Admittedly speculative, it

appears that the war in and over Ukraine is a 'long haul' war. Russia may capture more territory, consolidate its gains and use these in negotiations and 'peace' talks. If this scenario pans out, then Ukraine will, to use a metaphor from elsewhere, become a 'moth eaten' Ukraine. To state the obvious, this status will galvanize and provoke Ukrainian nationalists to continue their resistance skirmishes, guerrilla attacks and even combat of a limited nature- a condition that might be seen somewhat tolerable by Russia

horn of accretions, bombast and battlefield excesses or successes, the war in and over Ukraine appears to be the first militarized front in Cold War 2.0. This inference (or extrapolation if you may) accrues , in the main from the nature of weaponry given to Ukraine- mostly in the nature of ones that assist in dragging the war and not winning it) and the statements of the US president. So which way will the battlefront turn? Contrary to triumphalist commentary (which has propaganda value), the Russian invasion of Ukraine has not failed; it has stalled. But stalling can also be construed as failure, given the Russian military machine's optimistic assumptions about itself and Russia's sense of tions is to be believed, these will hit the centre of gravity of Russia's military machine, making it difficult for Russia to sustain its military campaign. Complemented by a quasi-hybrid fighting- guerrilla plus conventional campaigns against Russians by Ukrainian forces, Russia's 'will and resolve to fight' will be weakened. This then can become a predicate for negotiations and peace talks. If this is the dominant paradigm of thinking in the West, it is flawed. For Russia, the stakes are high; it is not merely about Ukraine and its status. The war aims are wider and deeper. Plus there is Russian prestige involved as well.

f boxed into a corner and if pursuing the Ukraine war is viewed by Western strategists as also being a component of 'regime tion that might be seen somewhat tolerable by Russia. What will tilt the balance of forces will be the kind and nature of support that the West will give to Ukrainian nationalists. I would surmise that , from a macro , broader perspective, the West will maintain the robustness and ferocity of sanctions on Russia and , at the same time, arm Ukrainian nationalists to the extent of bleeding the Russian military machine. It would appear, short of a full war, where NATO and even American forces get involved, but which risk the use of nuclear weapons by Russia, there might not be other options available (or usable) to the West.

The war in and over Ukraine then morphs into the first militarized battle front into what is now decidedly Cold War 2.0. China will draw its own conclusions from the saga and perhaps enhance and amplify its military and naval capability modernization efforts more vigorously. The world then becomes a more militarized place, divided into blocs defined by either balancing or bandwagoning by other states. In this world, diplomacy lest the fraught militarized world stumbles into a broader war assumes salience and precedence. All in all, a bleak scenario that belies the theories of progress and that of the 21st century. In this melee and recrudescence of the world, international relations and world politics into a zero sum game of war and peace, the highest price is being and will be paid by the people of Ukraine.

OTHER OPINON

Inflation marks a new pain point

Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), grew at 6.95% in March. The latest inflation number has surprised analysts. A Bloomberg poll of economists put this number at 6.4%. March is the third consecutive month when CPI has stayed above the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s tolerance band of 6%. Given the fact that the March numbers do not capture the full impact of fuel-price hikes, inflation is expected to gain momentum in April. To be sure, fuel is not the only factor driving inflation. Food inflation has breached the 7% mark and is expected to stay at elevated levels, given the global surge in food prices. Economists also expect core inflation to remain at high levels as businesses pass on the rise in input costs to consumers.

What does this mean for the Indian economy? The higherthan-expected inflation number will expedite the normalisation of monetary policy, not just on the liquidity front but also in terms of interest rate hikes. Given the fact that the inflationary surge is accompanied by a continuing slack in economic output — the Index of Industrial Production growth in February was 1.7%, a percentage point lower than the forecast by the Bloomberg poll of economists — this will lead to some pain.

There is a class aspect to the inflationary pain in the economy. Because the poor spend a bigger share of their income on food, higher food inflation also means a greater squeeze on their purchasing power. When seen in this context, the government's decision to extend the free ration scheme by another six months is a welcome move. Last, but not least, is the question of inflationary noise in government finances. Both taxes and government spending are measured in nominal terms and rising inflation will give an artificial boost to both these numbers. It is important that policymakers do not get swayed by what might be an inflationary upward bias in spending and revenue collection numbers — because this is not a genuine pickup in economic activity or fiscal boost.

Hindustan Times

What, at this stage, would stalling meanboth in narrow and broad terms?

Technically and tactically, the reasons for stalling are obvious: overstretched Russian supply lines and logistics are its key vulnerabilities. All that Ukrainian forces need to do, is to attack these vulnerabilities, and make Russian advances difficult. But this cannot be a long term strategy: Russia is a state that can galvanize its resources and oil its military machine to seize the initiative again. It can also indulge in feints and manoeuvres that addle the Ukrainian forces. For example, feints like lulls in fighting, withdrawal and reconfiguration of forces can confuse Ukrainians, making them believe in battlefield withdrawals. This can then be exploited by Russian forces to make fuller and more vigorous assaults on key Ukrainian vulnerabilities. The issue then becomes of attrition: who will be worn out first or in crude terms, who will blink first?

On the surface, if the merit and rationale of unprecedented sanc-

change' in Russia, the country, with its loose nuclear doctrines retains the ultimate weapon to force choices on the West. Or, if escalation, through advanced weaponry to Ukrainian forces that if not balance but blunt Russian weaponry is chosen as an option, then Ukraine actually becomes a clear and present theatre of war between the West and Russia. Yet again, it is attrition that becomes key.

Against this backdrop, what options are likely to be made operational?

Admittedly speculative, it appears that the war in and over Ukraine is a 'long haul' war. Russia may capture more territory, consolidate its gains and use these in negotiations and 'peace' talks. If this scenario pans out, then Ukraine will, to use a metaphor from elsewhere, become a 'moth eaten' Ukraine. To state the obvious, this status will galvanize and provoke Ukrainian nationalists to continue their resistance – skirmishes, guerrilla attacks and even combat of a limited nature- a condi-

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

The author is a writer based in Srinagar



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Ramazan: A Lesson in Sensitisation Towards PWDs

HE religion of Islam preaches about equality and fairness. No human being is superior to another. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself stated as such on the Mountain of Arafat in His last sermon: "No Arab has superiority over a Non-Arab and no Non-Arab has superiority over an Arab."

The concept of charity was designed for the very purpose of helping those who cannot support themselves or their families. The needy disabled and those who are in debt are one of the eight types of people who can receive Zakat donations. Some people with disabilities are often in greater need of humanitarian assistance.

There are persons with disabilities that are either in rest homes or their own homes who go long periods without any visitors, no one to ask about them or know about their hardships and requirements. They are living, but don't feel alive. One of the best things we can do is stop by and visit these people, ask about them, their history, help them feel important again. Even if you spare only one hour a month, it will be time well spent for them.

One doesn't always need to donate cash. There are other ways we can help them. We can take care of their medical requirements, education, monthly financial requirements, necessary living assistive devices. We can pay their electricity and water bills, catering to home, home barrier environment and improvement of residential evaluation.

On the other hand, one can simply contribute financially to either them or to the institutions which are designed to help them.

M Ahmad Principal (I/C), Abhedananda Home Higher Secondary Institution for Specially Abled Children



Comparison Among Siblings: An Open Invitation to Mental Health Issues

MINDFUL FRIDAYS



66 The message that the child takes home is that "you are not good enough" - laying the groundwork for low self-esteem. What may appear to be a passing comment may become a verse in their minds. What a child or a teenager perceives to be true in childhood finds its way into the subconscious, which shapes an individual's personality even as they enter into adulthood

Stills from the popular Hindi movie "Taare Zameen Par" starring Amir Khan. The film explores the smarter sibling scenario alongside the broader discussion on learning disabilities in children and challenges

Wasim Kakroo

"Look at your younger brother, why ren't vou like hii Look at your sister she always gets first position in class," and "Why can't you be more social like your older brother" are just a few of the remarks that parents frequently use for their children especially parents with authoritarian parenting style. Comparison between siblings is so common in families that it isn't even given a second thought. In a competitive society, where parents frequently compare their children to those of others, the comparison is certain to follow them home. Siblings are typically remarkably different from one another, despite growing up in the same house, sharing comparable genetics, and having the same chances, problems, and experiences. Their habits, mannerisms, milestones, and adventures are contrasted starting in childhood, especially throughout their formative years. Report cards, teacher feedback, performance in extracurricular activities, social skills, and personal development are all scrutinized, with no guarantee that the comparison will halt once they grow up. Although it is human nature to compare, and while parents may have the best intentions, when they expect two siblings to behave and perform in the same way, they are likely creating more harm than good. After all, despite their commonalities and bonds, children are still distinct individuals with unique psychology, physical abilities, interests, and driving forces. When children are growing up and trying to find their place in the world whilst coping with obstacles at school and in society, they will have even more to worry about, if their parents compare them to their siblings. What many of the parents don't realise is that such comparisons can have a negative impact on their children's confidence and self-esteem, and more importantly cause envy and jealousy among siblings. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Let's have a look at some of the reasons why comparing children is an unhealthy practice and should be avoided at all costs. Comparing siblings is never a good idea because each individual is unique in terms of talents, abilities, interests, hobbies, strengths, weaknesses, and other characteristics. It's like weighing eggs

in Kilograms; it makes no sense. Thus instead of focusing on what is lacking in their children, parents should focus on their strengths and good characteristics. Make a list of their strengths and identify activities that are appropriate for them. According to a well-known quote, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.' No one is flawless. Comparing siblings will almost always lead to frustration. You can't expect everyone of your adolescents to be equally good in class, equally athletic, equally good at social interaction, equally responsible, and equally good at keeping the moral code you've set. You must be patient with them and set realistic expectations, or you will be disappointed day after day. Additionally, children who are continually compared to their siblings or other children, particularly in terms of academic performance, have severe mental disorders, which they carry into their adulthood. Do you want your children to be stressed, anxious, depressed, or suffer from any other mental illness? If the answer is an unequivocal no, then stop comparing them. Teens place a huge value on what you say, so be careful with what you say. Repeatedly telling one of your children that she is less intelligent than her siblings or that her handwriting is poor in contrast to others will only make her feel inadequate. Comparison begets competition. Jealousy among siblings might be a result of comparison, which has an impact on the household environment. Not only this, but it could harm your relationship with your children if they think you prefer one sibling over the other. Moreover, comparisons may set a stage for self criticism. Self criticism may then lead to perfectionistic tendencies in such children which may lead to discontentment with almost everything such children do in their life. Comparisons may sometimes have a reverse effect, when a child unable to cope with the pressure, results in rebellion. Some children may purposely perform poorly in school or stop studying if they realize their worth is dependent on their sibling's achievement. When a child's performance isn't up to par due to a higher standard set by a sibling, the child may feel like giving up completely

and rebel instead. When youngsters are expected to follow in the footsteps of a sibling, they may be unable to explore the vast

compare or correct them. Allowing your pride in one sibling to cause disappointment in the other is not a good idea. Take care to strike a balance between the two. Children always watch closely and draw their own opinions. Thus, labeling your children is not a good idea. Giving your children titles like 'smart one,' 'childish one,' or 'creative one' not only limits their options to explore, but also gives the message that the other sibling lacks what 'the one' contributes, or instills in their minds a sense of inferiority.

array of options and standards accessible. A child is free to set his or her own objectives, milestones, and choices when there are no comparisons, providing him or her greater opportunities to explore and choose. A younger child should not be compelled to follow in the footsteps of an older brother who excelled in music classes, science, or the arts. Limiting a child by comparing them to others is limiting their endless opportunities and possibilities in terms of what they can do.

When teenagers are judged by those who are supposed to support and protect them, they naturally begin to wonder what is wrong with them and why they can't be like their siblings. As a result, the message that the child takes home is that "you are not good enough" - laying the groundwork for low self-esteem. What may appear to be a passing comment may become a verse in their minds. What a child or a teenager perceives to be true in childhood finds its way into the subconscious, which shapes an individual's personality even as they enter into adulthood. Such children begin to believe that they are incompetent. Low self-esteem leads to a lack of motivation and confidence. All of this occurs only as a result of your judgments and comparisons, even if they are made with good intentions and for constructive purposes. Thus, a comparison intended to assist the child do better does more harm than good in the long term.

You can't stop the world from comparing your children, but you can surely stop doing it at home. More than solving, comparison worsens the problem. Accept your children for who they are rather than what they should be like. Setting goals is vital, but so is understanding and nurturing the uniqueness of children and adolescents.

WHAT PARENTS/CAREGIVERS SHOULD DO INSTEAD?

Parents must make a conscious decision to avoid unhealthy comparisons. Make a note of their strengths and limitations, and assist them in flourishing in their own way. When they follow a different path than their siblings, resist the desire to

- Maintaining open lines of commu-3. nication within the family would encourage children to speak up when they believe they are being compared to others. This is critical in order to avoid harmful assumptions or disagreements with the children, as well as among them. Also, inform the school of your expectations, as teachers frequently make comparisons between siblings if they attend the same school. 4. Rather than forcing your children to be similar, celebrate their differences. Communicate the value of
 - having an independent identity so that they don't compare themselves even if no one else does. Encourage your children to work 'alongside' rather than 'against' one other. While your children battle comparisons and competition outside, make your home to be the safe zone against it, rather than an extension of it. Being a sibling does not have to signal the end of a child's individuality, and it is up to the parents to draw the line.

Parents, as primary educators and caregivers, must make conscious efforts to avoid making comparisons between their children. Parents must keep track of their children's strengths and shortcomings and help them to thrive in their own unique way. Every child looks up to his or her parents, so if the parents appreciate each child's unique identity, the child will feel confident and learn to believe in himself or herself.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He can be reached at 8825067196

NEWS

Pak Army Says It Has 'Nothing To Do With Politics', Gen Bajwa To Retire In Nov

Islamabad: The Pakistan Army, apparently ruffled by a vicious social media campaign against it, said on Thursday that it has "nothing to do with politics" and it will remain "apolitical".

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the Army- Director General Major General Babar Iftikhar also asserted that Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was not seeking an extension and will neither accept one.

Maj Gen Iftikhar said that Pakistan's survival lies solely on democracy and its strength lies in the institutions, be it Parliament, Supreme Court or the Armed forces. The Pakistan Army has "noth-

ing to do with politics" and the institution has decided to remain apolitical in the future as well, he said while addressing a press conference, three days after Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif was sworn-in as the new Prime Minister after prolonged political turmoil.

He clarified that Gen Bajwa was "unwell" on the day Sharif took office and had to skip the oath taking ceremony.

He said that instead of saying that the Army had been neutral, it was more appropriate to say that it is apolitical as per the constitutional requirement and demands made by various political parties over the years. "We have many security challenges and we cannot be in-

volved in any other thing. If we can only handle the security challenges properly, it will be fine, he said. made an

announcement that Gen Bajwa is neither seeking an extension nor will he accept an extension. "No matter what, he will be retiring on the 29th of November

2022," the spokesman said. He also rubbished the rumors about the threat of a martial law at the height of the recent political turmoil. "There will never be

martial law in Pakistan.' To a question about opening of courts in the middle of night when the battle for the no-confidence vote was going on, he said that it was a decision by the courts and the army had nothing to do with it. He also vehemently rejected the media reports about the visit of the army chief and the ISI chief to the PM House ahead

He also

of his decision to leave the official residence. Totally untrue Nobody went there In the entire process, there was no interference by the army. Let me put this thing to rest, he stated.

Maj Gen Iftikhar said that there is no truth about the army chief having meetings with the opposition leaders in Pakistan or outside Pakistan in the days leading up to the no-confidence vote.

He said that then prime minister Khan had approached the army chief to help find a solu-tion to the political crisis. "It is unfortunate that our po-

litical leadership was not ready to talk. So the army chief and DG ISI went to the PMO and three scenarios were discussed," he said, recalling that one was that the no-confidence motion should be held as it was.

The other were that the prime minister resigns or the no-confidence motion was retracted and the assemblies were dissolved. "No option from the establish-

ment was given," Iftikhar said. Khan had claimed that the "establishment" had given him three options: "resignation, no-confidence (vote) or elections" after the Opposition filed a no-trust motion against him in Parliament.

The powerful Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 73 plus vears of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Khan, who was ousted from power early this week, had apparently also lost support of the powerful Army after he refused to endorse the appointment of the ISI spy agency chief last year. **Complacency Responsible For Low Uptake Of Precaution Dose Of Covid Vaccines: Experts**

New Delhi: Public complacency owing to the waning of the pandemic coupled with the nine month gap between the second and the precaution dose are major reasons for the low uptake of booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines in the 18-59 age group, experts said on Thursday.

AIIMS Chief Dr Randeep Guleria said unlike in the past, people have less fear of the disease now and due to declining COVID-19 cases they have become complacent.

He, however, cautioned available scientific data suggest that immunity wanes with time and especially those with comorbidities in any age group are vulnerable to more severe disease. "But Covid has not gone

anywhere and new variants may emerge anytime. Also, we know that with time our

are periodically conducted," he said.

However, Wani said that the em-

ployees also carry out the safety audit

of the projects every day for over 30

organisation for carrying out a safety

audit of each ropeway project. The en-

tity operating the ropeway must com-

ply with all the issues arising out of the

The home secretary advised the

states and UTs to designate a senior of-

ficer of an appropriate level to regular-

ly review the preparedness measures

in respect of ropeway operations as per

Wani said that the safety audit of

'There's a proper diagnosis of the

problem and it's called pathological

gambling," Kakroo says. "It's a compul-

The mental health expert further

elaborates that under the whim of

one's emotions, one keeps on search-

ing for short term gains at the loss of

money, respect and even relationships.

This is exactly how Ayaz was

Soon after his graduation, Ayaz got

these projects is being carried-out by

audit," the communication said.

the SOPs and contingency plan.

the designated firms outside UT.

'We're Suffering':

related to the act.

sive act.

immunity wanes and those with comorbidities in any age group especially are vulnerable to develop a more severe disease.

"Therefore, people who are eligible for the precaution dose should take it as it will maintain a good level of protection against any new variant that may emerge," Guleria told PTI.

Around 16,352 precautionary doses were administered in the 18-59 age group on Wednesday in private centres across the country. A total 62,683 precaution doses have been given to people in this age group so far.

Dr Neeraj Nischal, Additional Professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, said the Covid threat will persist for some more time and citizens should take full advantage of the robust vaccination programme that is in place.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

4 Local LeT Militants

and cleaners namely Surinder Singh and Sonu Sharma, both residents of Pathankot at Nowpora and Yadar respectively in which they got injured," Kumar said, as per the spokesperson.

He further said that the IGP congratulated the joint forces for conducting a successful operation without any collateral damage.

"IGP said that hunt for their associates like Aijaz of Pulwama is on and they will be neutralised soon. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

In this regard, the spokesperson said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

"People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

3 Soldiers Killed

shifted to District Hospital Shopian, where two among them were declared dead.

"One soldier had received minor injuries and was discharged from District Hospital. The five other injured soldiers were evacuated to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar, where in the third soldier also succumbed to his injuries. Four soldiers are presently at the 92 Base Hospital and are being treated," he said.

The spokesperson said that owing to the wet road conditions, the driver seemingly lost control over the vehicle and it skidded off the road.

is deployed at the local temple," Bitu Singh, a farmer who spends most of his time attending to his fields, said.

They have lost their father sometime back due to an illness and their mother Pushpa Devi is in shock over the killing of her son. She was inconsolable and was seen being comforted by mourners, including Muslim neighbours, who visited the house to express their sympathies with the family.

"Muslim neighbours are also coming to offer their condolences. What else can they do? They too are helpless," Bitu Singh said.

However, he said, the community is considering moving out of the valley, and referred to a poster asking the Hindus to leave Kashmir.

A "threat" letter was circulated at Veeraan village in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday.

A hitherto unknown group, named 'Lashkar-e-Islami', had threatened the residents of the village where a group of Kashmiri Pandits live.

'The matter has been reported to us, cognisance has been taken and investigation initiated. We are looking into the credibility and authenticity of the letter," police said.

Threat does not seem to be viable given that the terror organisation seems non-existent, the letter is unsigned and posted, as also the security & precautions already taken are robust. However, precautionary fresh assessment and assurance measures are being taken," it said.

Miscreants who give such threats to disturb peace and tranquillity will be nabbed soon and dealt with strictly, the police said.

Bitu Singh, however, said the community is afraid even though senior police and civil officers visited them and promised every possible support. "We are mulling different options, including migration. Life is precious for everyone and our priority as well," he said. Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, who had won the Kulgam assembly constituency several times in the past, condemned the killing of Singh and appealed to the whole community of Kashmiris to raise their voice against "such heinous crimes" "The killing of Singh has shaken the entire population in the area. No words are enough to condemn such barbaric acts which only suit the enemies of Kashmir and its ethos of tolerance and brotherhood," Tarigami said.

tourism sector in the country.

"The valley is not just beautiful, but there is so much to see and do -- its culture, handicraft, activities and the basic character of the people. There can be a lot to show to the people across the world. Be it sports or culture, Kashmir is moving forward fast and its benefits will reach everyone," he added.

Review Meet

The journey of the pilgrims will begin from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km route from Nunwan in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The pilgrimage was cancelled midway in 2019, ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August that year, while only a symbolic vatra was observed for the last two years due to COVID-19.

During this year's yatra, the SASB has decided to put in place a daily routewise ceiling of pilgrims at 10,000, ex-cluding those travelling by helicopters. Union Home Secy,

its commencement on June 30.

Sources also said that the Home Secretary will hold a meeting of the chiefs of the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security force, Army officials, J&K Police chief and other high officials of the Union Territory and his Ministry to discuss the security and other important aspects related to the Amarnath Yatra.

The DGP will make a presentation on the security aspect during the meeting whereas the IB chief is likely to discuss the intelligence inputs gathered so far, the sources further said

"I had sought information under this RTI from all DCs but only, DC office Srinagar has provided this information. 60 percent of fines collected under the receipts of the Red Cross were never not deposited in the Red Cross account." Bhat told Kashmir Observer.

J&K Government on March 15, 2022 under DCS/DDMA/21/RTI/211-14. In response to his query, the office of the District disaster Management Authority, Srinagar on September 9 with information on all the points raised has said that there were 154 receipt books sent to SSp Srinagar that had collected Rs. 43,88,060 as the amount of fine.

There were 8 different categories of needy people, the reply noted, who were provided with the amount for financial assistance from the Red Cross amount. AS per the data provided, there were 15 CA cases who were provided Rs 1,04,500, 8 dialysis cases were given Rs 41,000, 5 heart cases were given Rs 23,500, 2 tumor cases were given Rs.7500.

It was in the several fire cases, death case/acid attack victims, destitute cases and widows who were given a financial assistance of more than 35 Lakhs. "114 fire cases were given Rs 7,16,000, 5 death/acid attack were given a financial assistance of Rs 3,69,820, 120 destitute cases were given Rs 7,91,825 and 2070 widows (01/04/2021 to 28/03/2022) were given Rs 16,43,220 as financial assistance from the penalty funds that were deposited in the Red Cross." reads the data attached in the reply.

dragged into the dragnet of the online gambling.

simultaneously.

But eventually, he realized that it's not right to get indulged in such things. "It can lead to addiction which will

lead you to lose all your money and I don't want to waste my hard-earned money on just a probability of getting more," he says.

But sadly, not many people can withdraw from this addiction on their own. "Society needs to understand that addiction has deep psychological reasons behind it," psychologist Kakroo says.

"People who get involved in such acts have lost control over their emotions and for that to recover medical attention is a must."

Meanwhile, Imran is yet to repay the money and repair his relationships.

His mother Sara keeps warning him, but Imran is still chasing the online treasure hunt and in the process losing more valuable things.

He even lost his business due to his unwillingness to pay attention to it. His health also deteriorated. He started to develop cardiac issues and anxieties owing to his addiction.

"I don't see a way to come out of this mess," Sara laments. "It's not just him who is suffering. We all are!"

Lightning Strike

identified as Ghulam Nabi Chopan, 45, a resident of Jabbad Branwar. (KDC) **Teen Found**

on Thursday morning, reported news agency KŇO.

"The deceased had gone yesterday to wash his car bearing registration number (IK05D-7923). However, today morning his body was found in the nearby river bank" he said

Kashmir Observer tried to reach Syed Kifayat Rizvi, Honorary General Secretary, IRCS, Kashmir Chapter, however there was no response from his

minutes before starting the operation. "We don't run the cable car project if we find even a minor glitch," he added. The entity operating the ropeways He had filed the application at the must maintain a record of all the activities undertaken as part of the maintenance programme, he said in the communication. "The state government must engage an experienced and qualified firm or

He also denied that the cause of accident was stone pelting, as claimed by

some users on social media. "It has already been clarified by the JKP that information shared on social media, that the accident was caused by stone pelting incident in the area is false. Rumours may be avoided and peace be maintained," the spokesperson added.

Rajput Driver's

after the cold-blooded killing. To carry out the attack, the lone militant chose the time of 'Iftaar', when the Muslim neighbourhood was busy offering prayers in mosques to break their fast during the holy month of Ramazan.

"We have not had our dinner or anything. The entire village is mourning. Singh was a gentleman," says Abdul Rehman, a neighbour.

Firewood for the pyre was collected by villagers, many of whom spoke about the brotherhood they share with the few Rajput families who never moved out.

"He (Singh) was working as a private load carrier driver...and had never harmed anyone," Bitu Singh, his younger brother, told PTI as the family was preparing to perform the last rites.

Satish Kumar Singh left behind an aged mother, wife and three daughters in the age group of six to 15 years. Some neighbours were seen consoling the family members.

Bitu Singh said the incident occurred around 7.05 pm when a gunman came looking for his brother who was having tea in a room.

"I was also sitting with him and had left the room to go upstairs with my daughter who insisted on being given a mobile phone to play game. In the meantime, I heard a few shots and rushed downstairs to find my brother in a pool of blood. He was fired twice in the upper body, causing his death," he said.

He said they have been living in the village for three generations and stayed back when militancy broke out in early 1990s -- the year when Kashmiri Pandits left the valley en masse to take shelter in Jammu and elsewhere in the country.

"We never felt threatened in the past...We are eight Rajput families living in the village and a police guard

The CPI(M) leader said he tried to visit the bereaved family but was not allowed by the security establishment.

Militants have stepped up attacks on civilians in south Kashmir over the past 10 davs.

Four labourers hailing from outside Jammu and Kashmir were injured in two separate attacks in Pulwama last week, while a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper was shot and injured by militants in Shopian.

Security Agencies

normalcy what we see in the entire Kashmir valley is such a wonderful thing for everybody -- for the people who live here, for the people who want to visit this heavenly beautiful place, as well as for the country. It is in the interest of everyone to secure peace in the entire area," Rijiju said on the sidelines of a function here.

There has been a spurt in attacks on civilians in Kashmir over the past two weeks. In the latest set of incidents, militants killed one local Rajput Hindu in Kulgam district while five other persons -- four non-local labourers and one local Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper - were injured in four separate attacks.

"These will be handled by security agencies. (Under) the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, things are being taken care of. I am very happy to see that normalcy has returned to Kashmir," he said.

On the tourist arrivals in Kashmir this year, Rijiju said Jammu and Kashmir plays a leadership role in the

In his two days visit to J&K, Bhalla

will also discuss the security aspect with the senior Army officials.

Providing adequate security seems to be major concerns for the Central government as the Yatra is commencing after two years because of the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration and police have been asked to make preparations for around eight lakh pilgrims for the pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine which will be concluded on August 11.

The CRPF deploys a maximum number of the security forces during the Yatra and its DG Kuldiep Singh, along with senior officials, have already held a preliminary round of meetings last week with Dilbag Singh and senior officials of the UT government.

Officials also said that after the successful completion of this pilgrimage will be an advantage for the Centre as that will endorse its claims that the security scenario has improved in the Union Territory.

The entire preparation for the pilgrimage will also be reviewed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah before it begins on June 30. (Agencies)

Covid-19 Crackdown:

two pandemic years.

The data obtained by Dr. Muzaffar Bhat reveals that while J&K deposited Rs 1,05,38,620 as penalty money in government treasury, only Rs 43,88,060 of the penalty amount was deposited to Red Cross despite the fact that most of the fine receipts belonged to ICRS.

"Total amount of penalty money recovered from 27th March 2020 to 1st March 2022 and deposited in Govt. Treasury under proper receipts in rupees is Rs. 1,05,38,620." reads the reply by DDMO Srinagar.

However, out of the Rs 43,88,060 deposited to Red Cross, "Rs 36, 97,365 was the amount provided as relief out of red cross to poor people/victims of other disasters"

Notably, the RTI activists had sought details under the RTI from all the DCs of the valley but only the details provided to him were forwarded by the Srinagar administration.

end despite repeated calls. **Marathon Safety**

Ajay Bhalla also said that for each ropeway project, a maintenance manual and programme must be in place so that the safety standards conform to good industry practices and such incidents do not recur.

Wani told Kashmir Observer that they used to carry the safety audit every year and the employees used to be alert following the heavy footfall of tourists.

The valley has two ropeway projects one in Gulmarg-popularly known as Gulmarg Gondola and another at Makhdoom Sahib (RA) in Srinagar.

Gulmarg Gondola is Asia's largest and highest and world's second-largest and second highest cable car project.

The officials said that the cable car project is a joint venture of the lammu and Kashmir government and French firm Pomagalski

The first phase of the ropeway was completed in 1998 and the second phase with 36 cabins and 18 towers was completed in a record time of two years and it opened for the public from 28 May 2005. In the third phase of Gulmarg Gondola project, 90 chairlifts were installed in 2011.

Similarly, the 550 metre ropeway project at Makhdoom Sahib (RA) was constructed at a cost of around Rs 8 crore, the ropeway was built by JKCCC through Kolkata-based Ropeway and Resorts Pvt Ltd. It was thrown open to the public on December 23, 2013.

Wani told Kashmir Observer that they follow all the international norms to carry out the safety audit in these projects.

"These audits are carried-out by Original Equipment manufacturers (OEM) who check the magnetography of ropes, bullwheel, frames etc," Wani added.

Asking the states and union territories to review the condition of all the ropeway projects in their respective state, Bhalla said SOPs and contingency plans for operation and maintenance of ropeways, and system of safety audits must be put in place.

"It should also be ensured that mock drills, mock exercises for handling contingency situations involving ropeways

iob and was earning quite well. He wanted to add to his earnings and found out about online trading and gambling. He thought this is an easy way to earn money quickly. And with this intention, he started investing money online.

"I had never seen him this much involved in his phone, as he's now," says Musa, Ayaz's best friend.

After losing Rs. 25,000 just in a few months, Ajaz borrowed money from his friends and ended up losing that too. "He borrowed a good amount of money from me and never returned it," Musa savs

In order to recover the lost money, argues Wasim Kakroo, one ends up plaving more and losing more money, which in turn invokes more negative emotions such as guilt, resentment and anger

Ahmad is a real-life example of such a mentality.

Ahmad started to gamble online on different platforms two years ago. In his defence, he says, he used to pass his time by gambling online during Covid lockdown. "I used to gamble small amounts of

money, so if I would lose, it wouldn't make a big deal," says Ahmad.

But little did he know that in the long run, he would be losing money in thousands.

However, despite losing money in online gambling, he wants to invest more in order to "recover" his lost money.

"Sometimes a person gets enraged, his ego gets hurt and that's how he loses his money," he justifies his gambling habits.

And since he won a few games initially and earned some money, he still believes that he stands a chance to win. "One does win but with time one loses as well and that is how apps make money," he offers his gambling 'insights'.

"I'll definitely continue to play with the hope that in the near future I'll get a great amount of money from gambling."

Even though it's hard to get rid of addiction, some people are able to do it on their own. Żulfikar's story stands true to this statement.

Out of curiosity, he started to gamble online to know how such things work. And for over a year, Zulfikar would play religiously – winning and losing

Police recovered the body and shifted to hospital for medical formalities, officials said.

UP Labourer

Raju Ram son of Ram Prasad, both from Batoli Mirzapur Banaras UP-at Thukerpora Gudsathoo Chadoora came under the frame work, leading to on the spot of the former and injuries to latter. Injured labourer, Raju Ram, was shifted to SDH Chadoora wherefrom he was referred to SKIMS Bemina Srinagar for further treatment, they said. (GNS)

Employee Suspended

drive some persons entered the residence of Tehsildar Sunderbani and entered into a verbal duel with him and tried to pressurise the officer to shun the plan of this eviction drive, and later, there was a scuffle in which the Tehsildar was injured along with others", said ADC Sunderbani.

He also informed that the planned demolition drive was carried out late in the evening as per the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, and all the illegal structures were removed, and 10 marlas of Prime land stand retrieved.

SDPO Noweshra Tausif Ahmed, said that Police have registered two separate FIRs against all accused persons involved in the two separate incidents in Police Station Sunderbani.

"First Case FIR No. 20/2022 against Chander Mohan and Anil Lakhanpal U/S 452, 323, 189, 504, 506 IPC while 2nd FIR No. 21/2022 against Davinder Kumar Sudan and 3 others U/s 452,353,323,427,336,34 IPC has been registered at Police station Sunderbani. He said that the investigation of both cases have begun and said one accused has been arrested till now.

Moreover, one of the accused Chander Mohan Sharma who happens to be an employee of the Agriculture Department has been suspended with immediate effect.

"Pending enquiry into the conduct and as directed by District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Mr. Chander Mohan Sharma JAEO, Zone Panja Subdivision Kalakote is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect, reads the order issued by CAO Rajouri.

STATE

Kashmir Reports Six New Corona Cases, Jammu None

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley registered six new covid-19 cases while there was no infection recorded in Jammu region in the last 24 hours, offi-

cials said on Thursday. There was no death due to it reported across J&K, the officials 👒 said. They said that two cases each in Kashmir Val-

ley were reported in Srinagar, of mucormycosis (black fungus) Baramulla and Budgam. So far 453915 people-166276

in Jammu and 287639 in Kashmir- tested positive for covid-19 in J&K, they said. There was no death reported

in the last 24 hours, they said.

and 72 in Kashmir. The officials said there was no new confirmed case reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 11143

So far 4750 persons have suc-

cumbed to the virus-2327 in

Besides, they said, eight Co-

ing the time—all from the

Valley. So far 449090

people have recovered,

leaving the active case

tally at 75–3 in Jammu

vid-19 patients recovered dur-

Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir.

doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in [&K. (GNS)

Tourism Deptt Asks Service Providers To Desist From Cheating, **Overcharging**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of karkay aap Kashmir ki khub-Tourism has advised all tourism soorti aur mehman nawazi mein service providers to desist from char chand laga saktay hain-the any sort of cheating or overcharging from the tourists.

amply clear that relevant provisions of J&K Registration of incident of cheating or over-Tourist Trade Act-1978/2012 and other penal laws would be invoked in case of deviant stakeholders.

A spokesman of the Department said though it was good that we are witnessing a bumper season of tourist arrivals, it was incumbent upon the stakeholders and the Department to ensure that tourists are attended decently, properly and charged fairly for the services they utilize so that they return back with memories as beautiful as Kashmir is known for.

In a specific complaint received from a tourist group, the Department has blacklisted the service provider from undertaking any commercial activity besides initiating other criminal proceedings against the concerned unit holders.

The accused unit holders have also been detained for questioning by Tourist Police.

of an old tagline of the Depart- Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo said.

ment-Sayaah aap kay husne sulook ka talib hai, uss ko khush spokesman impressed upon all the segments of tourism frater-The Department has made it nity and their representatives to play their role in checking any charging of tourists and live upto the expectations of highest levels of hospitality Kashmir has

been known for centuries. The Department has issued an advisory to all the stakeholders at all the destinations in this regard. Meanwhile, the Department has constituted a Central Monitoring team comprising Deputy Director, Kashmir, Registration and Enforcement to randomly check the destinations to cross check strict following of prescribed rate lists and other SoPs notified.

Separate monitoring teams have also been set up at all destinations comprising respective Resort Officers, representatives from Development Authorities and Tourist Police with a similar mandate.

The teams shall provide their feedback and suggest measures for further streamlining the tourist related services, an order Reminding the stakeholders issued by the Director Tourism,



HUNDREDS OF LOCALS AND TOURISTS VISITED Mughal Gardens on Thursday on the occasion of Baisakhi. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Light Rain Lashes Kashmir Valley, Eludes Jammu

Agencies

SRINAGAR: More rains lashed Kashmir Valley but eluded Jammu in the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday.

The weatherman has forecast isolated to scattered light rain/ thundershowers over Jammu and Kashmir in the next 24 hours and isolated "very light rain/ thundershowers" in the subsequent two days.

"Another spell of rain is likely during 19-21 in both J&K and Ladakh"

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar received 0.7 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours of 4.0°C against 7.6°C last night. said. The temperature was 1.8°C this morning and recorded a low of 8.7°C against 11.8°C on the previous night. The temperature, he said, was 1.1°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

Qazigund received 0.8 mm of rainfall during the time and recorded a low of 7.0°C against 10.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was above normal by 0.5°C for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had 1.2 mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 6.8°C against 10.3°C on the previous night. It was 0.7°C more than normal during this time of the season for the place, the official said. Pahalgam, the famous resort in



capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of

MeT department said that

9.8°C, Batote 12.6°C while

Bhaderwah recorded a low of

9.7°C, the official said.

ing the time and recorded a low The temperature was 1.2°C above above normal for J&K's winter normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg had 1.4 mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 1.8°C against 2.5°C on the previous night, the official said. While 1.5°C is normal for the world the place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Kupwara town in north Kashwere largely dry. mir received 1.4 mm of rain in the 24 hours and recorded a low of Jammu city received only 7.7°C against 9.7°C on the previ-2.1mm of rain against normal ous night. The temperature was of 68 mm last month while normal by 1.4°C, the official said. Srinagar city received 21.3mm Srinagar city received 21.3mm Rains eluded Jammu division of rainfall as against normal of with winter capital recorded a 117.6mm. (GNS)

Rijiju Unveils Premises Of J&K International Arbitration Centre

Mushtaq Zargar **Designated As 'Terrorist'**

 $\frac{K_{ASHMIR}O_{BSERVER}}{Friday | 15.04.2022}$

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Chief of Al-Umar Mujahideen militant group Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar alias only to India but around the 'Mushtaq Latram' has been des-ignated as a "terrorist" under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA, a move which enables the security agencies to attach his or Central government believes associates' properties believed that he is involved in terrorism to be purchased from proceeds of crime.

With this, anyone staying in (Prevention) Act, 1967." touch with him becomes an offender under the law.

Considered to be ruthless in the early 1990s, Zargar had broke JKLF and formed his own Al-Umar Mujahideen militant group.

He was one of the militants released in exchange for passengers of hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in 1999 besides Maulana Masood Azhar, the chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Sheikh Omar, who killed American journalist Daniel Pearl who was working for The Wall

Zargar is the fourth individual to have been designated as a "terrorist" by the Centre in the last one week and the 35th individual to have been declared a designated 'terrorist' by the government.

In a notification, the Union Latram, 52, belongs to Nowhatta in Srinagar and is the founder and chief commander of militant group Al-Umar-Mujahideen and had been affiliated with the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front. Zargar is currently based in Pakistan where he had gone in the late nated as a "terrorist".

1980s to receive arms training. The home ministry said Zargar has been running an incessant campaign from Pakistan to fuel militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"He has been involved in

the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central government hereby makes the following in the Fourth Schedule to the said Act, after

ecution of terrorist attacks and terror funding," it noted.

The home ministry said

"Zargar is a threat to peace, not

world, with his contacts and

proximity to radical terrorist

groups like the Al-Qaeda and

Jaish-e-Mohammed and the

and is to be notified as a terror-

ist under the Unlawful Activities

"Now, therefore, in exercise of

serial number 34 and entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:- 35." the notification said.

With this move, the government, through security agencies, would be able to attach his or his associates' immoveable and moveable properties believed to have been purchased from proceeds of crimes.

On April 8, the government had designated Hafiz Talha Saeed, a key leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the son of 26/11 Home Ministry said, Zargar alias Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, a "terrorist".

Three days later, on April 11, Pakistani national Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir, who was involved in the suicide attack on a CRPF bus in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, was desig-

On April 12, Ali Kashif Jan, the Pakistani handler of the 2016 attack on Pathankot airbase, has been designated as a "terrorist" by the government.

The Act empowers the Central government to notify the name various terror crimes, includ- of an individual in its Fourth ing murder, attempt to murder, Schedule if it believes that he is kidnapping, planning and ex- involved in terrorism.

NC Condemns Killing Of Rajput Driver

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference on Thursday condemned the killing of driver Satish Kumar Singh, a Rajput, in a militant attack in Kulgam.

In a joint statement, NC president Farooq Abdullah and vice and nab the culprits. president Omar Abdullah said brutality has no place in any with the bereaved family and emancipated socie

his home on Wednesday evening, amid a string of targeted attacks on members of minority communities in Kashmir Valley.

The NC leaders termed the incident unfortunate and urged the police to investigate the case

They also expressed unison praved for fortitude to them and

In March, J&K received 80% famous skiing resort during deficient rain due to the abthis time of the season, the ofsence of any strong western ficial said that the temperature disturbance or the winds blowing from the Mediterranean was 0.3°C above normal for bringing moisture. The capital

cities of Jammu and Srinagar

Street Journal.

Director Horticulture **Visits Hailstorm Hit Areas Of Baramulla**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Horticulture Kashmir, Mr. Ajaz Bhat (IKAS) ON Thursday visited various areas of district Baramulla tricts to assess the losses. viz.Sherpora, Mamoosa, Kanloo, Babagund, Sari, Nehalpora, LalporaKunzer, LalporaTangmarg, Dobiwan, Pinjoora etc., which have witnessed hailstorm causing damage to fruit crops.

He was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Baramulla and other field functionaries of the Department. Pertinent to mention thatyesterday evening hailstorm occurred in various parts of the valley, however its severity was not much in other districts.

Speaking on the occasion Director General expressed his chards may be sprayed with Urea sympathies with the affected fruit growers. Referring to the extent of the damage he said that tation and remove fallen fruit/ about 20-25% is damage has oc-

curred in these areas. He advised the orchardists not to panic as it is still in recoverable stage. He further said that special teams have been framed in the affected dis-

Moreover, the orchardists of the affected areas were advised to follow the below mentioned recommendations:

The orchards be immediately sprayed with any one of the following fungicides (per 100 lit. of water): Zineb 68% + Hexaconazole 4% 72 WP (100 g) or Metiram 55% + Pyraclostrobin 5% 60 WG (100 g) or Mancozeb 75 WP (300g) or Zineb 75 WP (300 g) or

Zineb 75 WP (300 g) In addition to the above, the or-@ 0.2% (200 g per 100 lit. of water) Maintain proper orchard sanileaves from the orchard.



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for premises of the Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitra- contemporary importance. tion Centre (JKIAC) here, an offi-Court Complex at Lal Chowk.

on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Riji-Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju on ju complimented the High Court tion and mediation can provide Thursday inaugurated the new of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh better quality justice because for establishing an institution of

He underlined the impor-

Mithal and others were present important tool for improvement in ease of doing business. The minister said arbitrathe courts are already overburdened with cases.

Rijiju said the central governcial spokesman said. The centre tance of arbitration in commer- ment will provide all possible has been built in the Old Sadder cial transactions, especially in- help and make all the resources ternational ones, in view of the available to the judiciary in the Chief Justice of the High growing economy of the coun- UT of J-K to improve infrastruc-Court of J-K and Ladakh Pankaj try and said arbitration is a very ture and augment manpower.

Singh, 50, was shot dead at peace for the deceased

Admin Lunches Initiative For Carbon Neutral Panchayat At Bogund Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: As part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, panchayat halqa Bogund Kulgam was on his own house. Thursday declared as first target the district during a function or-ganized by RDD & PR.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat.

must unite in a war against plastic and carbon emission.

He also urged to reduce the and reduce your waste and focus on efficient management. DC said that it is important for

the whole population to bring in behavioral change and everyone must treat a village as his own the same way as he considers

Addressing the gathering of for Carbon neutral panchayat in general public of the Panchayat Bogund, ACD highlighted the importance of cleanliness besides public participation in keeping the Halqa free from pollution.

ACP also highlighted the Addressing, a large gathering causes of Carbon footprints in on the occasion DC said that we the society besides highlighting various ways to minimize carbon footprint.

Later, a plantation drive was amount of energy use, in a man- also kick started in the Panner like shop locally, travel smart, chayat halqa while Jute bags, Cardboard boxes and tin dustbins were distributed among the people.

25000 New Seats Added With Start Of 50 New Colleges Across J&K

2500 Kindergartens Established, 2000 More Being Setup

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With an aim to reform the educational ecosystem and infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the largest single addition of education capacity in 70 years was done with the addition of new 25000 seats in 50 new colleges in one year only, officials said Thursday.

The present administration Lieutenant Governor, under Manoj Sinha is creating one of the best infrastructures for higher education in the country.

Two colleges of architecture and One engineering college

was also established. IIT and IIM was established in record time," official documents said. Government is bringing reforms for the transformation of education ecosystem by bridging the gaps and openings up opportunities for the younger

generation. The focus of the Government has been value-based education; creating an environment for individual growth apart from scientific and technological knowledge.

"We are working to create a perfect balance between students and teachers for shaping the young minds through a value-based knowledge system," an official of the school educa-

tion department said. Speaking at a book launch of "Analysis of Accreditation Reports of Union Territories-Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh," by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) during a function organised by NAAC in collaboration with the Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Lieutenant Governor (LG), Manoj Sinha said that the Universities and Colleges have immense power and a small shift in curriculum can have a

decisive impact on the socioeconomic environment.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the world is heading towards an era that will be dominated by the knowledge economy, our biggest asset would be the human capital, a combination of talent, skill, and creativity.

"Our biggest and strongest asset has to be the human capital, a combination of talent, skill, and creativity," Manoj Sinha, said. "The UT government is consistently reforming the educational system with new tools to produce required skill sets.'

The education sector in UT is being reformed to meet the requirements of the rapidly transforming education system and the changing market dynamics. The shift in the curriculum at University and Colleges can have a decisive impact on the socio-economic environment of J&K.

An official said that efforts are continuing to improve the courses in Universities and Colleges to create a conducive environment for learning and innovation with the aim to empower every student with technical and social skills to de-

velop entrepreneurial thinking.

Highlighting the need to introduce new reforms to meet the requirements of the rapidly transforming education system and the changing market dynamics, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The University and Colleges have immense power and a small shift in the curriculum can have a decisive impact on the socio-economic environment".

With the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, more than 2500 kindergartens were established and another 2000 are being established under Capex Budget.

80,000 students are already enrolled in pre-pre-primary classes in 9000 Government primary schools.

According to statistics of education department, 9643 Government schools from 6th to 8th classes were mapped with adjoining high and higher secondary schools for providing basic skills on vocational courses taught in 803 vocational labs. Every teacher will mentor 10 students of primary classes under the Student-Teacher Mentorship initiative launched in J&K with a focus on Foundation and Numerical Literacy.

SPORTS

Medal At National C'ship

&K Dragon Boat Association

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Youth Ser-

vices and Sports (DYSS), Gazan-

far Ali on Thursday congratulat-

ed JK Dragon team on winning

the Bronze medal at the recently

concluded 9th National Dragon

Boat Championship, saying the

whole Jammu & Kashmir was

Congratulating the team, Di-

rector DYSS, Gazanfar Ali said,

"You are our stars. All of you and

associated officials deserve ap-

preciation for continuously de-

livering winning performances.

Seeing your passion and talent,

I am sure our shining stars will

try, I applaud JK Dragon team

for their win. Their journey em-

"Our UT's history is filled with

perform across the globe."

proud of them.

for your future battles," he said.

Hailing the team for taking the rich legacy forward and living

up to the expectation of its fans

and colleagues alike, Director

YSS assured the players that the

department would do whatever

possible to support the team.

"Work hard, play with passion

It's worth mentioning here

and make efforts to keep the de-

that J&K Dragon Boat Team won

the Bronze Medal in 200 mtrs

mixed-race event, during the

9th National Dragon Boat Cham-

pionship, held at Alappuzha,

Kerala from 8th to 10th April

The team was sponsored by Khyber Industries Pvt. Ltd. and

vices & Sports, HK Cements,

TCI Cements, Kashmir Mahal

partment's flag aloft," he said.

Director YSS Hails JK

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Back to winning ways, a resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad will be forced to tinker their successful combination following Washington Sundar's injury as they face Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Friday.

tournament, SRH turned things around with back-to-back wins over Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans, and Kane Williamson's team is now eying a hat-trick of victories.

cog in the SRH wheels, will be missing in action after he sustained a split webbing on his bowling hand while fielding against GT.

Hyderabad have the option of Shreyas Gopal and Jagadeesha Suchith in the spin department or they might give another chance to Abdul Samad, who looked ordinary in the first two

For Sunrisers, it was the batting failure which was hurting them as they faltered in their first two chases, but the team goods in the last two outings.

completed the job against GT and the team will expect them to show consistency and take the responsibility in the middle-order.

In bowling, Marco Jansen have taken a wicket each in the last two games, while his pace colleagues T Natarajan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have contributed with crucial wickets. KKR are heading into the match after a loss against Delhi Capitals but it remains a formi-

dable side and would look to bounce back from the reversal. The Knight Riders are placed show for from his five innings.

MI Skipper Rohit Sharma Fined Rs 24 Lakh For Team's Slow Over-Rate



Press Trust of India

PUNE: Mumbai Indians skipper Kings at the MCA Stadium, Pune pers of the playing eleven were media statement

tained a slow over-rate during IPL's Code of Conduct relating their IPL match against Punjab to minimum over rate offences. "Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Rohit Sharma and other mem- on April 13," the IPL stated in a Sharma was fined Rs 24 lakh and

'Big 5' In Test Cricket: Watson Picks Kohli Ahead Of Smith, Root, Williamson & Babar Press Trust of India Azam is playing incredit

Kashmir Observer[™] Friday | 15.04.2022

NEW DELHI: Former Australia picked Virat Kohli as the best cricket as well. batter among the 'big five' in Test cricket, preferring to not read much into the Indian

maestro's failure to score a hundred since November 2019. As per Watson's list, the former India captain has

pipped the likes of Steve Smith, Kane Williamson, Joe Root and Babar Azam.

always going to say Virat Kohli," Watson said when asked by Isa Guha who he thought is the best Test batter in the world, in his latest episode of the ICC Review. "It's nearly superhuman, what he is able to do because he has such high intensity every time he goes out to play," Watson

While Kohli has slipped to 10th on the ICC rankings, the Indian great continues to hold a remarkable Test batting record. He has scored 27 Test centuries and 28 half-centuries and cur-

rently has a Test batting average of just under 50. The world's current No.1 Test batter Marnus Labuschagne, who has played 26 Test matches and averages 54.31, would have increased the 'big 'five' to a 'big six', but was left out of the de-

bate for this topic due to a 40-Test minimum criteria, the ICC said in a report on its official website.

Regarding Pakistan skipper Babar, who he has kept at num-ber two, Watson noted, "Babar in any conditions."

Azam is playing incredibly well. "(It's great) to be able to see how he has adapted his game all-rounder Shane Watson has to really move his game to Test

"Babar Azam would probably



"In Test match cricket, I am be No.2 at the moment."

Babar is currently ranked the fifth best batter in the world and appears to be on the rise if his recent performances against Australia are anything to go by. He stroked a superb 196 during the second Test in Karachi and finished the series with a total of 390 runs.

About Watson's third best batter Smith, he said the Australian star "has just started to come off a little bit.

"It looks like Smith has really started to play for time a little bit more and is not putting as much pressure on the bowlers as he did when was at his absolute best. For me, Steve has dropped down that list a little bit."

Smith is second on the ICC rankings, with only Australian team-mate Labuschagne ranked ahead of him.

About Williamson, who Watson considers the world's fourth best at the moment, the Australian said, "Kane knows his game inside out and knows

Pujara, Rizwan Make Sussex **Debut In County Cricket**

Press Trust of India

DERBY: India's Cheteshwar Pujara and Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan on Thursday made their Sussex debut for the game against hosts Derbyshire in the County Championships Division 2 here. While Pujara has played firstclass cricket in England in the past, it is the first outing for Pakistan wicketkeeper batter.

Both were named in the Sussex playing eleven which is and Rizwan are expected to bat Derbyshire. on day two.

Both the players stand at the able to bring in players of Rizopposite end of their internation- wan and Pujara's quality into the



With Sussex having lost their opening game, head coach Ian captained by Tom Daines. With Salisbury included both over-Derbyshire opting to bat, Pujara seas stars for the contest against

'I am extremely excited to be careers. While Puiara will be side. Not only are they absolute aiming to score a bagful of runs world-class cricketers that will boost our performances on the being dropped following the tour pitch, but to have them around the boys and in the dressing said the head coach in a team statement.



title triumphs across the coun- co-sponsored by J&K Youth Ser-

bodied the team's never say die spirit. Wishing you all the best Ehsaas International.

2022.



Participants appreciate initiative,

ing with players said that programmes of such nature would encourage youth to adopt a healthy nd channelize f



After a subdued start to the

However Washington, a vital

matches.

addressed the problem with openers Abhishek Sharma and Williamson producing the

In Tripathi's absence, Nicho-

las Pooran and Aiden Markram in the second spot with six points from five outings.

Umesh Yadav had his first bad day of the season as he conceded 48 runs for one wicket. Ditto for Pat Cummins as the Australian skipper bled 51 in his four

overs. Varun Chakravarthy and Andre Russell went for 44 and 16 in their respective spells. While Iyer did the bulk of the scoring with a 54 in the last match, the poor form of opener

Ajinkya Rahane is a cause of concern for KKR. Venkatesh Iyer, too, couldn't set the stage ablaze and has just one fifty to

added.

unique experience

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The "My Pride My Youth" initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council reached faroff villages in Poonch where events in the disciplines of Boxing, Taekwondo and Hockey shall be held.

Around 240 players are participating in the event which is aimed at tapping the talent from every nook and corner of the J&K and honing their skills in the gamespecific academies set up across the union territory.

The event Hand ball and Hockey events will be conducted on tomorrow were in more than 100 players will showcase their talent to get space in future competitions.

DDC member from Surankot, Sohail Malik presided over the function as the chief guest, while Sunil Sharma (Sarpanch) was the guest of honour and Naresh Sharma was the special guest.

A large number of spectators were present on the venue besides officials from Sports Council, YSS and other government departments besides incharge sports stadium Poonch.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief guest said that "Khelo India" is already bearing fruits. The Chief Guest while interact-

gies for larger good. Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul while divulging the details of the

sports initiative said that government is keen to identify and build a talent pool of players in the region. "J&K abounds for multi-talented youth and as an apex sports body, we are here to explore that talent and provide them the right platform to showcase their skills," she added. "This is just the beginning and I am sure through the medium of this program much talent will come to the fore," said Secretary JKSC.

For participants from a remote area, this is one of the unique experiences when game-specific events are being held for the first time in a very organised manner. Some of them feel, that similar events in other games shall also be held in their native villages, however, were quick to add, the initiative is appreciable for which JKSC and the government of J&K deserve all applauses.

Like a common demand from other areas, participants here also feel that such events should become a regular feature in the future. In Sher-i- Khass's Gani Memorial Stadium, Sports Council Football Academy, Bandipora will clash first time.

with Etihad Football Academy in the ongoing Youth Football League later on Thursday evening.

fined for maintaining a slow over-rate during their IPL game against Punjab Kings here. Punjab Kings won the match

by 12 runs on Wednesday night. down to Punjab Kings. "The Mumbai Indians have

Agencies

more heated exchanges and rough

fouls than clear-cut chances and

as police officers intervened.

secure progress to the semifinals.

abéu Stadium.

fluid play.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians continued their losing streak and suffered their fifth loss on the trot after going

been fined after they main- offence of the season under the against Delhi Capitals.

playing eleven were fined Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their match fee, whichever is lower," it added. Earlier, Rohit was fined Rs 12 lakh for his team maintain-"This was the team's second ing a slow over-rate in its game

the rest of the members in the

to make a Test comeback after of South Africa, Rizwan has been one of the best wicket-keeper room can only be a positive, batters in international cricket over the last couple of years.



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Ukraine Resumes World Cup Qualification With June 1 Playoff

Agencies

ZURICH: Ukraine's bid to qualify for all of the parties involved for the the Word Cup will resume on June 1 against Scotland after its playoff semifinal in Glasgow was postponed in March due to the country being invaded by Russia.

FIFA on Thursday also said the delayed playoff final in that bracket Dynamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk. against Wales in Cardiff will be on June 5 to determine the final European team to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar.

The playoff winner will go into a group at the World Cup in Novem- friendly matches in Europe this week.

ber with England, the United States and Iran. "FIFA would like to thank strong spirit of solidarity and cooperation that has led to this unanimous decision." world football's governing body said in a statement.

Most of the Ukraine squad is typically drawn from domestic clubs They were unable to resume games on Feb. 26 after a midwinter break and most of their players from other countries left Ukraine to escape the war. The clubs have been playing

as the teams left the pitch. A scuffle Klopp's team for the first goal and had broken out between players Roberto Firmino added two more

during the final minutes as Atlético accused City of time wasting, and Gonçalo Ramos had made it the animosity spilled over into the tunnel as the teams walked off after the game. Extra security had to be called in to keep players and officials from the two camps separate. Some players had to be restrained Runner-up last year, City will next face Real Madrid, which elimi-

nated defending champion Chelsea on Tuesday at the Santiago Bern-In the other quarterfinal, Liverpool didn't need its best players to Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp opted to rest stars like Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold, and the FA Cup semifinals on Saturday.



in the second half at Anfield.

1-1 on the night in the 32nd minute – keeping Benfica in with the unlikeliest of chances – but Liverpool never looked like squandering its big advantage, even though substitute Roman Yaremchuk and Darwin Núñez scored goals for the visitors in the 73rd and 82nd minutes, respectively.

Liverpool stayed on course to win the competition for a seventh time, and for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies this season. That Klopp was able to rotate so heavily after building a commanding lead in Lisbon last week should enable Liverpool to field a full-strength team against Manchester City in

MADRID: Atlético Madrid couldn't find a spark for its struggling ata 6-4 aggregate win. tack and was held to a 0-0 draw Villarreal awaits Liverpool in the by Guardiola's Manchester City on last four. Ibrahima Konaté, one of the scor-Wednesday in a game that featured

saw his backups play out a wild 3-3 draw with Benfica in the second leg of the quarterfinals to wrap up

ers in Liverpool's 3-1 win in the

first leg, netted another header for