



P3 CITY

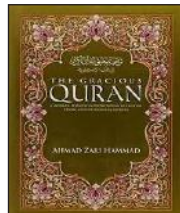
## RAMAZAN 2022: THOUSANDS THROG CITY MOSQUES, SHRINES ON JUMA-TUL-VIDA

After two years of successive lockdowns following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, mosques and shrines in Srinagar city registered massive attendance of devotees on Friday. Juma-tul-

P5 THINK

## WORDS DIVINE, PARAPHRASING HUMAN: 21ST CENTURY ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS THE QUR'AN BY THE NATIVE ARABS (PART-II)

Ahmad Zaki Hammad (b. 1946) is a renowned Islamic scholar/authority on the Qur'anic and other Islamic sciences. He received his graduation (Almiyyah) from Faculty of Theology, Al-Azhar University (Cairo) and doctorate in Islamic Studies from University of



P7 STATE

## MET PREDICTS 3-DAY WET SPELL FROM MAY 3

Weatherman forecast light rain at isolated places towards afternoon on Saturday as well as scattered to widespread moderate spell during May 3-5 in Kashmir



28 <sup>th</sup> RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	7:16	4:14
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:23	4:12

Widom Quote!

Courage is knowing what not to fear  
- Plato

### NEWS DIGEST

#### 3 Soldiers Injured In Mine Blast

JAMMU: Three Army personnel were injured in a mine blast during patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said. The injured personnel were taken to a hospital and undergoing treatment. "During a routine **More on P6**

#### Mortar Shells Defused In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Friday evening recovered and diffused four rusted mortar shells from Qaimoh area of south Kashmir's Kulgam, official said. An official said that acting on a tip off, joint team of army's 1 RR, police found four live mortar shells besides **More on P6**

#### J&K Logs Four New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded four fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the total number of infected people to 4,54,032, while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, one was from Jammu and three from Kashmir division **More on P6**

#### Teen Drowns, Another Rescued In Poonch

SRINAGAR: A teenager drowned and another was rescued from a river in Mandi area of Poonch district on Friday. Official sources said Sajad Ahmed (16) and Mohammad Arif, both residents of Baila drowned in a river while bathing. As the news spread, army and police reached the site and launched a rescue operation assisted **More on P6**

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## 'We Can Easily Solve Kashmir's Ongoing Power Crisis', IPPs To Govt Kashmir's Independent Power Producers Can Be Light Amid Darkness

Zaid Bin Shabir

Amid a deepening coal crisis and probable breakdown of Kashmir's crucial power plants, the Independent Power Producers (IPP) from Kashmir have come up with a solution that can mitigate the current crisis. The valley-based IPPs have offered their services to supply extra power to the Kashmir Power Development

Corporation Limited (KPDCL) grids and lift the power curse in the region, only if the Government ends the recently adopted grid-rotation policy. During the acute power crisis, the IPPs producing electricity at the domestic level could have provided a supply sufficient for at least 50,000

households in Kashmir, but the KPDCL's recent policy is allegedly wasting the home-made power supply, causing financial losses and augmenting electricity demand in Kashmir which they say "could've been easily met through these stations". Pertinently, these stations

and grids are the same receiving bodies to which the locally produced power of IPPs is connected from several IPP plants. The power is then handed over to the department at these state receiving stations and grids and from where the department is fully entitled to supply this domestically produced energy to

various households of Kashmir as per their schedule.

"Since the unbearable power cuts began in Kashmir, KPDCL adopted a new grid rotation policy, under which they shut several receiving stations and grids," an IPP from Kashmir, who wished anonymity fearing reprisal

from the department, told Kashmir Observer.

"Despite Kashmir being wrapped under an acute power crisis, these stations and grids are being shut down for an average of about 8-10 hours, sometimes for even 19 hours. That's how the locally produced power is disconnected from these receiving stations and thus causing disruption of power supply to Kashmir valley," **More on P6**

**6 DESPITE KASHMIR BEING WRAPPED UNDER AN ACUTE POWER CRISIS,** these stations and grids are being shut down for an average of about 8-10 hours, sometimes for even 19 hours. That's how the locally produced power is disconnected from these receiving stations and thus causing disruption of power supply to Kashmir valley."

## Arms From Afghanistan Being Seized In Kashmir

Army Chief Says Military Hardware From Afghanistan Seized In Kashmir As US Admits It Left \$7 Bn Equipment At Hands Of Taliban

Agencies

New Delhi: Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said that there was an increase in seizure of arms and ammunition from Afghanistan in Kashmir.

General Naravane, who is all set to hang his boots on Sunday, said in a video released on Thursday: "There is definitely an increase in the number of weapons and other equipment, especially night-vision devices that we are capturing or unearthing, which definitely have come from Afghanistan."

He added that there were also apprehensions that after Taliban took over Afghanistan last August, the mujahideens would be pushed into Kashmir by Pakistan.

"When the previous Taliban regime was there in Afghanistan

in the early 2000s, we did have a little spillover. We had captured or killed Afghan terrorists (in Kashmir) also," Naravane had said the recently-concluded Raisina Dialogue.

Last month, General Naravane and other top military commanders reviewed deployments of troops at Western and Northern borders.

The military top brass had discussed the force preparedness at Line of Actual Control with China and the Line of Control with Pakistan.

In February this year, General Naravane had said the situation in Afghanistan was again brought to focus, the use of proxies and non-state actors to decisive effects.

"These actors thrive on local conditions, innovatively exploit low cost options, to devastating impact and create conditions, that limit the full use of sophisticated capabilities, available to the state," he had said.

The concept of sequential, and often graduated application of force, has also undergone significant changes. **More on P6**

## Lt Gen Raju To Be New Vice Chief Of Army

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju will take over as the next vice chief of the Army Staff on May 1, the defence ministry said on Friday.

Lt Gen Raju will succeed incumbent Lt Gen Manoj Pande who will take the reins of the 1.3 million-strong Army after Army Chief Gen

MM Naravane completes his term on Saturday.

A qualified helicopter pilot, Lt Gen Raju is currently serving as the Director General Military Operations and oversaw the Army's overall operational readiness in eastern Ladakh.

An alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Academy, he was commissioned **More on P6**



Thousands of devotees converged at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar to offer congregational prayers on Juma-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the ongoing holy month of Ramadan. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## LG Invites Leading Indian Business Families To Invest In J&K

Says UT Has Received Investment Proposals Worth Rs 52,000 Crore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday invited leading business families of India to invest in Jammu and Kashmir, promising the best facilities to investors among all states and the Union territories across the country.

"I am appealing all leading family businesses to come and invest in Jammu & Kashmir. I assure that the best facilities among all states and Union territories will be provided to you in J&K," Sinha said.

The LG made these remarks during his keynote address at the Moneycontrol PRO's Indian Family Business Awards 2021



event held in Mumbai on Friday. Sinha, who was the chief guest at the inaugural edition of the awards, said that the overall business environment has received an impetus in the

Union territory, with collections under GST, excise, sales tax and stamp duty going up.

"Today, the state has investment proposals worth Rs 52,000 crore," Jammu & Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha said, adding that the Union territory is witnessing an economic turnaround since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

He said that although COVID-19 pandemic affected the growth plans, the focus of his administration continues to remain on improving the region's economy.

"There is a culture of family businesses in Jammu & Kashmir as well. Family businesses have played a key **More on P6**

## Shab-e-Qadr, Juma-tul-Vida Observed With Solemnity

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Shab-e-Qadr, the night of power and blessings, and Juma-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the ongoing holy month of Ramadan, was observed across Kashmir valley with religious fervour as the revered Hazratbal Shrine here -- witnessed the largest congregation of devotees as the Grand Mosque of Srinagar remained locked.

The prayers at major mosques and shrines in the valley were held after two years due to successive lockdowns in the wake of the outbreak of COVID-19, the officials said.

They said the managing body of the grand **More on P6**

## EU's Gilmore Discusses Kashmir Situation With GoI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: EU special representative for human rights Eamon Gilmore said on Friday that in his meetings with the Indian government he has discussed issues such as the use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, condition of minorities, communal violence and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gilmore also said that in his meeting with members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) during his India visit, the panel's role in relation to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorism laws, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), minorities and individual cases, was discussed.

An EU delegation, including Gilmore and EU Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto, called on Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in Delhi on Thursday, a day after it met NHRC chairperson Justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra and other members of the panel.

"At meetings with Government, including @naqvimukhtar, Minister for Minorities, I discussed FCRA, use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, detentions, the situation of minorities, communal violence, situation in Jammu Kashmir, and individual cases," Gilmore tweeted, tagging Naqvi's tweet on their meeting.

On his meeting with NHRC, he thanked the panel for the meeting, at which, he said the NHRC's role in **More on P6**

## Spurious Drug Case: Govt Pays Rs 36L As Relief To Kin Of Deceased Kids

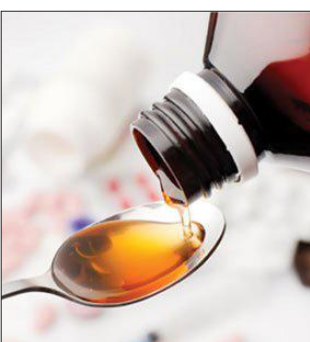
Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: On the recommendations of the NHRC, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has paid Rs 36 lakh as relief to the relatives of 12 infants, who had died after consumption of "unchecked spurious cough syrup" in Udhampur, officials said on Friday.

The incident had happened in Ramnagar, Udhampur during December 2019 and January 2020, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said.

The Commission had registered a case on the basis of a complaint dated April 30, 2020, it said in a statement.

"On the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission, the Jammu and



Kashmir administration has finally paid the monetary relief of Rs 36 lakh to the next of kin of the 12 infants who had died after consuming a cough syrup which was subsequently found to be spurious," it said.

Initially, in response to the notices of the Commission, the UT

administration had maintained that "there was no scope for any complicity on the part of its Drugs Control Department; the manufacturing of quality drugs is primarily the responsibility of the manufacturing firm and the department had already lodged a formal complaint against it before the competent court of law," the statement said.

"The Commission found the contention unacceptable and observed that there was no denial of the lapse in the case though the drugs department did not want to own responsibility.

"It observed that the department had failed to keep a regular vigil on the contamination and contents of the medicine sold within its jurisdiction and hence the state **More on P6**

## Go First To Restart Srinagar-Sharjah Flights Soon

Ministry Approves Five Flights Per Week, LG Hails Move

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: After facing repeated disruptions over bilateral rights, Go First on Friday received approval from Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate five Srinagar-Sharjah flights per week on a regular basis.

Director, Airports Authority of India, Srinagar, Kuldeep Singh told Kashmir Observer that the 5 flights will be operated from Srinagar-Sharjah per week now.

"The operation was stopped in March, now it has been resumed," Singh said.

According to a communiqué

by the Ministry of Civil Aviation government of India, it has allocated M/s Go Air India Ltd the traffic rights to operate on Srinagar-Sharjah route- reg.

Go First's Srinagar-Sharjah flight was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23 last year, connecting Jammu and Kashmir with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after around 11 years. However, six months after the inauguration, Go First stopped operating the flight from March 27 in absence of requisite bilateral rights.

The traders as well as the travellers were continuously demanding resumption of the Srinagar-Sharjah direct flight which was benefiting thousands of Kashmiris working or studying in the UAE.

An official **More on P6**





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# Scientists Identify 100 Crucial Research Questions On Climate Change In Himalayan Region

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have identified 100 pressing research questions on climate change and water resources in the Upper Indus Basin (UIB), which they say must be answered to protect the communities living in the region.

The UIB is located in the mountainous Hindu-Kush Karakoram Himalaya (HKH) region, of which Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a part, and which feeds the river systems that supply the world's largest network of irrigated agriculture. Hundreds of millions of people across Pakistan, India, China, and Afghanistan depend on these water resources and so adapting to climate change is essential, the researchers, including those from the University of Kashmir in Srinagar, noted.

The study, published in the journal Earth's Future, employed a 'horizon scanning' technique to identify 100 essential questions required for successful adaptation to ongoing and future climate change in the UIB.

The aim of the study is to identify knowledge gaps and opportunities in social and natural sciences to help inform climate plans, water management, and development policy, the researchers said. The questions identified push the boundaries of current thinking and are



grouped into overarching topics of governance and policy, socioeconomic processes, and earth system processes, they said.

Raising awareness of these pressing knowledge gaps will encourage researchers, funding bodies, practitioners,

and policy makers to address them.

"Water resources in the UIB are under a range of ever-increasing pressures including population growth, industrialisation and of course the serious threat posed by climate change," said British Antarctic Survey climate scientist An-

drew Orr, who led the study.

"If we are going to successfully adapt to ongoing and future hydrological and climate change in the UIB we must address pressing knowledge gaps in social and natural sciences," Orr said in a statement.

The researchers noted that the coming years will likely see dramatic changes to this region, and the questions they have identified must be addressed to prepare for such changes.

"The Top 100 research questions identified in the study would inform policy-making for developing strategies and action plans to combat climate change and hydrological extremes in UIB, of which Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a part," said Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, from the University of Kashmir, who participated in the study.

"The study demonstrates a collaborative role for stakeholders within and outside the UIB to develop climate change adaptation plans, and policies which will secure and protect the UIB communities that live there," said Romshoo, who is also the Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in Awantipora, Jammu and Kashmir.

The authors noted that one of the main priorities of the study was to emphasise the importance of identifying knowledge gaps in both the natural and social sciences, as research efforts to identify the impacts of climate change on the latter have for a long time often been neglected in favour of the former.

The consequences of neglecting social sciences are that the understanding of the dynamics and impacts of climate change are often limited, they added.

## Asia: Less Brain Drain More Global Consciousness

360info

Universities, already encouraged to self-finance in the face of declining government funding, faced even more uncertainty when the pandemic hit. But few strayed from their strategy to monetise the growing global student market.

In the Netherlands, there is one international student for every four domestic students. Canada's Immigration Refugee and Citizenship data shows that in 2015 to 2016 and 2019 to 2020, the number of Indian students studying there increased by 350 percent. Meanwhile, the UK's Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) reported a 220 per cent annual increase of Indian students enrolling in UK universities.

In Asia, many international programmes are provided by branches of UK universities. By 2021, there were 17 British universities in 27 countries around the world, providing education for approximately 60,000 students.

The University of Nottingham Malaysia was opened in Selangor, Malaysia in 2000 catering to more than 5,000 students via the private university model. Newcastle University partnered with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and created the Newcastle University International Singapore (NUIS) to offer medical degrees in Malaysia through NUMed.

In 2006, the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) was founded in Suzhou, China reaching approximately 14,000 students in 2019.

It's a trend that Adam Habib, Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London says is accelerating the brain drain in Africa and Asia, weakening their intellectual and institutional capacity to deal with the pandemic, climate change, and inequalities.

The Habib cautions that UK universities are inadvertently taking away intellectual capacity from economically-developing countries as former students marry, find work abroad, and eventually stay.

Such partnerships are, for Asian states, part of neoliberal aspirations to become world class'. What is

deemed world class' is constructed through international university rankings agencies like Quacquarelli Symonds and Times Higher Education. These rankings, after all, are prerequisites for Asian universities to tap into regional student markets by opening up their own English-based undergraduate programmes. However, there is little authentic intellectual and institutional capacity in Asia to begin with. For many countries in Southeast Asia, universities and hospitals were inherited from colonialist regimes.

In Indonesia, independence movements of the early 20th century were mobilised by intellectuals and scientists who received a European education and were exposed to modern nation-state ideas.

Historically, Asian societies have been dealing with contradictions relating to the formation and spread of intellectualism, including how it reproduces new kinds of social inequalities between English-speaking Asians and their local counterparts.

In the meantime, at least in India and Indonesia, since the pandemic, governments and academic communities are increasingly realising the fundamental need to address these inequalities by leveraging on the science diaspora.

These alliances between sojourners, who feel that they are very much Indian and Indonesian, and local intellectuals, encourage people to bridge more equal partnerships between science and technology.

But this idea comes with new kinds of issues. Chinese diaspora and Confucius Institutes in Southeast Asia are viewed with suspicion, specifically as spreaders of the communist state's propaganda through science collaborations seen as soft power.

On one hand, the sense of belonging of diasporic communities can teach us new ways to imagine more equal partnerships. On the other, developing a global consciousness is crucial in order to respond to upcoming global crises such as climate change and current ones like the COVID-19 pandemic; where borders are transformative and problems go beyond nation-states.



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**Extension of time**

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dt:-29-01-2022, followed by extension notice no. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22- Dated:-26-03-2022 issued by this office, regarding premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its **Business Unit Habak Crossing**, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to **6<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022**. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). The parties who have already applied need not apply again.

**Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.**

No./Jb/zokc-1/Est/22- Dated:-26-04-2022. Sd/- Zonal Head ZKC-1

**DIPK-NB-584/22**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the RC of my vehicle (Tipper) Bearing registration No: Jk03G 7024. 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 office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seen days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Nadeem Ahmad Bhat**  
S/O: Habibullah bhat  
R/o Adder khanabal

**ma**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In my Matriculation Certificate my fathers name is written as Mohamad Baqir while as in other documents, including in my old passport under number J4356825 issued on 07-01-2011 and Service Book it is written as Mohamad Baqir Bhat. I have applied for a fresh passport and want to have the father's surname to be mentioned in the passport as in the earlier issued passport. Anyone having objection may submit the same to the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days from the publication date of this notice.

**Ulfat Jan**  
D/o Mohamad Baqir Bhat  
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## Demand For Readymade Clothes Soars Ahead OF Eid

Agencies

Srinagar: There has been a spike in the sale of ready-made garments in the city before Eid ul Fitr. Customers prefer ready-made garments over unstitched clothes due to their reasonable prices and durability. Ready-made clothes also save time as people do not have to venture out in Ramazan to have them stitched.

With only a few days left for Eid ul Fitr, hundreds of commuters throng to the city's bustling markets for shopping. In this respect, some of the most visited markets include Lal Chowk, Gonikhan, Jamia Masjid, Makkah Market, and other areas of the city.

"I came all the way from Baramulla to purchase ready-made kurtas for Eid", said Feheem, a shopper.

"Not a single tailor was ready to stitch my clothes in my area as I just arrived home from Saudi Arabia a week ago," he said.

"I can buy a ready-made kurta for Rs1, 800 whereas unstitched clothes cost as much as Rs2, 500."

Tailors are charging as much as Rs900 for one kurta. On the other hand, prices for men's kurtas in City's main markets range from Rs1, 800 to Rs3, 000.

Reports suggest families also prefer to purchase ready-made garments for their children. But they complained that the prices for children's ready-made garments were significantly higher than the unstitched clothes.

The sale of ready-made garments has been increasing since 15 days prior to the start of Ramazan. This is because tailors stop booking further orders to stitch the clothes due to excessive workload. Traders said the sale of ready-made garments increased by 50% in the last two weeks of Ramazan.

Many garment outlets have displayed various ready-made clothes on sale ahead of Eid in order to sell out stocks. Severe rush of customers was witnessed in shops with such discounts.

On the other hand, the tailors are satisfied with their businesses and earnings. They said their work never gets affected due to the increase in the sales of ready-made garments.



Thousands of people including women offered Friday prayers at Khanqah-e-Moula on the last Friday of the Holy month of Ramazan. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

### RAMAZAN 2022

## Thousands Throng City Mosques, Shrines On Juma-Tul-Vida

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: After two years of successive lockdowns following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, mosques and shrines in Srinagar city registered massive attendance of devotees on Friday, Juma-tul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan was celebrated with religious fervour across the city as devotees thronged mosques and shrines.

The largest congregation was witnessed at Dargah Hazratbal

where thousands of devotees attended the Friday prayers.

Witnesses said that the devotees from different areas across Kashmir reached Dargah, Hazratbal on Juma-tul-Vida where they had a glimpse of the holy relic.

Arrangements were made for Friday prayers in Masjids and the shrines across the city to mark the holy night and seek divine blessings. The devotees attended the religious gatherings to seek forgiveness from Allah Almighty and his blessings.

Many mosques and shrines were decorated with colorful pennants and saw jam packed attendance of devotees.

However, the historic Jamia Masjid in the Old City area of Srinagar remained closed for the special prayers on Shab-e-Qadr as well as on Juma-tul-Vida as authorities cited security concerns.

Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid termed it extremely sad and unfortunate. Shab-e-Qadr prayers were also not allowed last night at the grand mosque.

Locals said that it is for the third straight year that the historic grand Masjid has been kept closed by the authorities for the special prayers.

Moreover, the government had also made special arrangements on the occasions and had also directed the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) officials to ensure adequate and uninterrupted electricity and water supply respectively on this special occasion.

## NC Asks Admin To Make Arrangements For Eid Ul Fitr

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference Additional General Secretary Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal on Friday asked the administration to make ample arrangements in view of the forthcoming Eid Ul Fitr observance.

Kamal asked the incumbent administration to give directives to all the concerned departments to make elaborate arrangements for ensuring cleanliness and other

related things for the general convenience of the devotees at all major centres across Kashmir.

He also impressed upon the government to give directives to the police authorities to put in place security arrangements for the hassle free movement of people. "Traffic police authorities should also ensure smooth plying of public and private transport and ensure that the traffic is regulated in a proper manner without any congestion

in the major towns and cities across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly at all the major business and shopping hubs. The government should give directives to the PHE, PDD to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and power supply to the consumers particularly on Youm-e-Arfah," he added.

He also impressed upon the government to ensure steady supply of water and electricity to the consumers on the eve of Eid Ul Fitr.

## Mayor Visits Hazratbal, Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Mayor or Junaid Azim Mattu on Friday visited Hazratbal Shrine.

He on the occasion prayed for the peace, prosperity and strengthening the bond of harmony and brotherhood on this day and said people should pray for complete peace, stability and overall development of J&K and prosperity of the country.

He oversaw the arrangements made for the devotees at the Dargah.

He visited various areas of the shrine and took on the spot review of the arrangements put in place by Srinagar Municipal Corporation and by other departments including PDD, PHE, Traffic Police and Health Departments



for the purpose.

Mayor on the occasion directed uninterrupted supply of electricity, drinking water and sanitation facilities at the shrine complex particularly during prayer times.

To facilitate worshippers thronging to the place, Mr Mattu passed on directions to the concerned to set up a Municipal Camp for assistance of devotees.

He further said that

SMC shall set up similar assistance camps at other shrines as well.

He took a round to the areas earmarked for prayers for ladies and gents, places of ablution; facilitation counters etc and took stock of the facilities put in place there.

Clear cut Directions were passed on the occasion to the concerned officials that all necessary arrangements be it Sanitation, facilitating devotees by setting up Assistance camps, smooth flow of traffic by ensuring constant anti encroachment drives and providing clean environment to the people by regular cleanliness/ sanitation drives and various other vital arrangements be taken care of ahead of Eid festival.

## Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Department Of Health Research Government of India

### Call for applications/ nominations for the post of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)- cum- Secretary, Department of Health Research.

Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India invites applications for the above post from Indian Medical Scientists with proven track record of medical/ biological Health research and its administration.

2. The Department of Health Research (DHR) is a Department under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. Different activities of DHR include promotion and coordination of basic, applied and clinical research including clinical trials and operational research through development of infrastructure, man power and skills in cutting edge areas of management of research. It also addresses ethical issues in medical and health research along with inter sectoral coordination and promotion of public-private partnership as well as training in research and international cooperation in areas related to international health. Investigation of outbreaks and development of tools for their prevention is also an important activity of DHR. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organisation under DHR, promotes and supports intramural and extramural research activities in the fields of communicable and non-communicable diseases and basic medical sciences. ICMR has 27 institutes located in different parts of India.

The requirements of the post are as follows:

a. Essential Qualifications: MBBS, MD or equivalent from a recognised University and approved by Medical Council of India/ National Medical Commission, with more than 15 years of research/ academic/ clinical experience with outstanding scientific achievement and temperament in above fields.

b. Desirable Qualifications: (i) Experience of heading a medical research institute of repute and should have demonstrated managerial/ administrative capability to plan, guide and implement the vast, varied and multifaceted activities in the area of medical research; (ii) Proven record of Medical/ Bio-medical Health Research as published in prestigious national and international journals; (iii) Involvement in multicentric/ technological research work involving handling of large projects in medical research; and (iv) Experience in regulatory issues and International collaborations.

c. Last date for receiving applications: Within 21 days of the date of publication of the advertisement.

d. Address for receiving applications: Candidates may address the application on plain paper giving detailed C.V. at the following address:

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Applications can also be sent at the email id- geetan(a)nic.in

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
28 Ramazan  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 13
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:17
Magrib	7:16
ISHA	8: 45

## This Day In History

- 1804 - The New Hague Theater opens in The Hague, the Netherlands
- 1860 - Navaho indians attack Fort Defiance (Canby)
- 1863 - Battle of Snyder's Bluff, Virginia (part of the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War): General Sherman beaten by Confederate forces
- 1897 - English physicist J. J. Thomson announces his discovery of the electron in a lecture to the Royal Institution
- 1904 - Ice cream cone makes its debut
- 1945 - Red Army opens attack on German Reichstag building in Berlin.
- 1945 - Soviet Army frees Ravensbruck concentration camp
- 1945 - US troops attack the Elbe
- 1945 - Record 48 U-boats sunk by the Allies this month
- 1945 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide along with his new wife Eva Braun in the Fuhrerbunker in Berlin as the Red Army captures the city.
- 1961 - Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba receives Lenin-Peace Prize
- 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 75,190 m
- 1974 - US President Richard Nixon hands over partial transcripts of Watergate tape recordings
- 1975 - North Vietnamese troops capture Saigon, ending the Vietnam War
- 1976 - Muhammad Ali beats Jimmy Young in 15 for heavyweight boxing title
- 1984 - 1,700 skiers participate in an alpine event at Are, Sweden
- 1984 - Strong winds cause a 30 min delay in Toronto Blue Jays game
- 1989 - World Wide Web (WWW) is first launched in the public domain by CERN scientist Tim Berners-Lee
- 1990 - US 66th manned space mission STS 31 (Discovery 10) returns from space
- 1990 - US hostage Frank Reed freed after 4 years in hands of pro-Iranians
- 1992 208th & final episode of "The Cosby Show" on NBC-TV
- 1993 - The World Wide Web source code is released by CERN, making the software freely available to all.
- 2002 - A referendum in Pakistan overwhelmingly approves the Presidency of Pervez Musharraf for another five years
- 2009 - Chrysler automobile company files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy
- 2009 - Failed attack on the Dutch Royal Family results in 7 deaths and 17 injured
- 2009 - The United Kingdom formally ends combat operations in Iraq

## From KO Archives

## 'UNMOGIP Role Can Be Discussed With India, Pak'

NEW DELHI - Taking into account the positive strides made in Indo-Pak ties, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan today said discussions could be held with the two countries on the role of UN military observers stationed on either side of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Annan, who ended his three-day visit, was asked at a press conference here whether it was worthwhile continuing with these observers at a time when India and Pakistan were successfully advancing their peace process.

"We are extremely pleased that India and Pakistan are making steady and truly remarkable progress in their bilateral dialogue," he said adding the UN presence was all part of these efforts.

"Obviously, we need to discuss with parties concerned as the developments evolve on how we handle our presence and role of observers-what it should be," he said.

During his parleys here with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh, Annan was apprised of the developments in Indo-Pak ties as also the outcome of the recent visit of President Pervez Musharraf.

Annan also lauded India and China for forging a strategic partnership which he felt would have a "salutary effect" on large parts of the world.

Describing India as an "important" member of the UN, he said it has played an active role in all UN organisations. (Kashmir Observer, 30 April, 2005)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

Twitter Talks



"Lakhs of homes in India will be having one year death anniversaries this month & the next. Praying for love & light to all those who lost their loved ones last year around this time.And to those who risked their own physical & mental health to help strangers"  
@SonaliVaid

"No media coverage has been given to the appointments made in District Consumer Commissions. It has been done in Secrecy. Who are these people? What is their experience?"  
@rtimuzaffar

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

NC and Corruption

The chief minister, Omar Abdullah’s concern at presiding over the second most corrupt state in the country could have been convincing had his party not ruled Kashmir for most of the decades the scourge was nourished and nurtured by the supposed keepers of the law.

The distinction of ranking among the most corrupt in the nation was not won overnight, but is a result of over sixty years of assiduous pursuit by the political classes who have cultivated and suborned an army of public servants into a well-oiled machine to siphon off the finances meant for public expenditure. The apparatus of loot has been fashioned, inherited and used by successive regimes to enrich themselves and those conducive to their interests. This was not mere happenstance or accident but a premeditated enterprise with far-sighted and sinister political objectives. And today the rot has permeated all strata of society, so that, by unspoken convention, those who do not toe the line, for example in officialdom, are left in the wilderness, while the more compliant thrive and prosper.

Mr. Abdullah’s platitudes the other day at a conference of vigilance officers remind one of his father’s famous promise of throwing corrupt officers into the Dal. Not surprisingly, nothing came out of the commitment made in the eighties when the senior Abdullah had come to power, except that the curse scaled new heights and became more entrenched.

The origins of the phenomenon in Kashmir need a deep political study, but what is obvious is that the unenviable position of the National Conference right through its history has left it bereft of the moral authority to take an effective stand against corruption. There, after all, is no meeting ground between leading to build a nation of unimpeachable character and pursuing power and self-glorification by playing upon the amorphous loyalties of the subjects. The NC, and its towering leadership, would have been expected to awaken the conscience of Kashmiris after New Delhi opened the floodgates to prop up the Bakshi regime, but it seemed to be more than happy to wallow in the same muck, and shamelessly outdid its predecessor which, at least, had some landmark works to its credit.

The National Conference calls itself a movement, and movements do not rely on political office to fashion the moral character of a people. For long the only mass-based party of the state, and having had a charismatic figure at the helm, the NC was uniquely placed to instill and encourage traits of uprightness in society, but the state of Kashmir today is a telling commentary on the impact of its most potent political force. Had the NC truly been a movement, the interregnum of Congress rule would not have deterred it from its first duty: safeguarding the character of Kashmiris. This is the foremost among the National Conference’s many failures, and no excuse can absolve it of responsibility, at the very least, of being a mute, inert spectator as the very fibre of Kashmiri character was being compromised. The party cannot plead helplessness, for, its leadership, when back in power, did not lift a finger to stem the rot.

The young chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir may be very good at making fine speeches about his noble intentions, but he is, and will continue to be, saddled with his party’s record of being more than partial to the tainted buck. The roots of the malaise are too deep even for the cataclysmic events of the nineties to weed them out. It goes without saying that our society needs to be cleansed of this shame if what is left of its innocence is to survive. But nothing short of a drastic revolution, or a miracle, will do. Mr. Abdullah will have ensured his place in history if he just succeeds in damming the tide. It is not within his or his deeply compromised party’s province to deliver the required revolution. For that, Kashmir has to produce a new breed of leaders with the credentials and courage to convince Kashmiris to shrug off the baggage of history, and begin on a path that is itself historic. But the cast of characters on stage today does not encourage any hope.

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

The Stakes In Ukraine

On a grander scale, the war has become a great power duel as America faces one of its severest tests as the world’s sole superpower

RIYAZ WANI

The war in Ukraine seems to be going nowhere as it enters its third month. Contrary to expectations, Russia has struggled to occupy Ukraine. The country remains far from capturing Kyiv. It has faced stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces, even in Mariupol which the Russian president Vladimir Putin claims has been “successfully liberated” The war has not been a shock and awe type of blitzkrieg unleashed by the US in Iraq and also in Afghanistan leading to the collapse of the those countries’ governments within the first month itself. As a result, the war in Ukraine looks nowhere closer to any resolution. Parties to the conflict - Russia on one side and NATO on the other - are in no mood to back down. Russia is unlikely to withdraw until it has achieved its strategic objectives. And which are to stop Ukraine from becoming a part of the western sphere of influence by joining NATO. The US and the European Union, on the other hand, have asked Russia to withdraw from Ukraine. They have also imposed severe economic sanctions on Kremlin. But immediately the sanctions are going to make little difference to Russia’s pursuit of its military and strategic objectives. The war thus looks set to drag on for some time unless better sense prevails on all the parties including Ukraine and they see reason in negotiating their way out of the dead-end.

In a positive development, the UN chief Antonio Guterres has embarked on an initiative to seek a negotiated settlement by meeting Putin and the Ukrainian president in their respective countries. However, the chances of this initiative succeeding anytime soon are slim, what with the west or Russia showing no inclination to back-track from their maximalist goals. But whenever the serious talks are eventually held, they could offer a way out of the current crisis, provided both sides are able to hammer out a compromise. But the positions of Russia and west-backed Ukraine have become so irreconcilable over the years that it looks highly unlikely that a solution is imminent.

The situation, meanwhile, is becoming fraught. Russian troops have already controlled swathes of Ukrainian territory to the east. One of its aims seems to be to dislodge the current Ukrainian government and install a Russia-friendly dispensation. Russia’s objectives are unlikely to stop there. It also wants guarantees from NATO to stop its eastward expansion and the latter is loathe to do so for reasons that this could jeopardize its global military dominance. This makes the situation very complicated and not amenable to an early solution. More so, when the west has already put economic sanctions on Russia and is contemplating more of them. At the same time, the west is arming Ukraine with its latest weaponry to ensure it stands up to the Russian onslaught and slows it down till the time the multi-pronged western sanctions start biting the Russian economy and force it to compromise or withdraw.

But things are unlikely to pan out that way. On a grander scale, the war has become a great power duel as America faces one of its



The point is that it is not the reality on the ground but the west’s core interests that determine what is good and what is evil. Otherwise, the reality of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is very complex. It is rooted in Russia’s legitimate fears of being encircled by the west and the NATO military bases reaching its doorstep

severest tests as the world’s sole superpower. Some western experts have already written the epitaph of America’s unipolar moment. In that sense, it would be interesting to see who blinks first in this great power war of nerves. And that could decide the new superpower of the world. But America, despite its recent setback in Afghanistan, its failure to have its way in Syria in the teeth of the opposition from Russia and Iran, remains the world’s No 1 power. Its GDP and defense expenditure remains several times higher than its nearest competitor China. But in Ukraine, we are at an interesting moment in history. The outcome of the war will determine the new global geopolitics if not the new super-power of the world.

The Russian invasion has, meanwhile, rallied western nations and many other countries from around the world behind the US. And suddenly all we are hearing is a predominantly western narrative on the war. Social media companies have censored Russian state-sponsored media so there is little in the public domain that can be called an alternative discourse. And this is creating a situation we are all so familiar with. West has again put on a moralistic lens on the war: a conflict between flawless virtue and pure evil. Putin is being projected as a reincarnation of Hitler. In fact, Time magazine’s recent cover page shows Hitler’s face lurking under that of Putin.

It is a familiar script that has earlier played out in US-led wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya,

Syria, and in the case of the US-backed Saudi war in Yemen. In the case of war in Iraq, it was the cooked up intelligence about the then Iraqi president Saddam Hussain possessing the Weapons of Mass Destruction that became the basis for war. And western media acted as cheerleaders for the destruction of Iraq.

The point is that it is not the reality on the ground but the west’s core interests that determine what is good and what is evil. Otherwise, the reality of Russian invasion of Ukraine is very complex. It is rooted in Russia’s legitimate fears of being encircled by the west and the NATO military bases reaching its doorstep. Many of the Eastern European countries which were once a part of the USSR-led Warsaw Pact have become a part of the NATO, heightening Russia’s insecurity. Now the growing likelihood of Ukraine also joining NATO became the last straw for Putin. While it is nobody’s case to countenance the invasion of a sovereign smaller country by its powerful neighbour, the solution to the evolving fraught situation can be resolved if the US-led West and Russia sit down and work towards addressing each other’s grievances and fears.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

Elon Musk’s \$44bn Twittocracy

Belen Fernandez

When I was asked to write about the \$44bn purchase of Twitter by Elon Musk – the South Africa-born CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and richest person on the planet – I was torn. I have written about Musk on various occasions in the past, like when Time magazine selected him as its “2021 Person of the Year” even while acknowledging his track record – which comprises numerous allegations of atrociously sexist and racist conditions in his US factories, as well as violations of local pandemic regulations to keep workers working and Twitter threats against employees wishing to unionise.

Time mused that “the vast expanse of human misery can seem an afterthought to a man with his eyes on Mars”, as though apathy for the human condition is somehow a romantic. Person of the Year-type attribute. Earthly misery has meanwhile only been exacerbated by the fact that we now have to hear about Elon Musk day in and day out – which is why I was at first hesitant to contribute to the din.

As Columbia University professor Liza Featherstone remarked on Facebook in the aftermath of the Twitter deal: “People keep nattering on about a certain uninteresting person, who bought an uninteresting social media platform, and all said person wants is this kind of attention.”

She continued: “It’s very enabling, almost as if the world learned nothing from Trump!”

That said, I do have a few more things to say.

Let’s start with the concept of “free speech”, which Musk has relentlessly invoked to justify his latest conquest: “Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated.”

Never mind that live-tweeting one’s bowel movements, one of Musk’s preferred pastimes, would seem to be somewhat less than vital to civilisation – or that anyone who bribes a college kid \$5,000 to delete a Twitter account cannot really self-identify as a proponent of free speech. The account in question is @ElonJet, where college freshman Jack Sweeney tracks Musk’s private jet utilising publicly available data; when Sweeney refused the bribe, Musk blocked him – the same mature response that has been applied to countless Twitter users Musk has deemed to be undeserving of the same right to free speech with which the cosmos has endowed Musk.

In addition to blocking, Musk’s Twitter repertoire also includes maniacally lashing out at politicians and others – often in entirely irrelevant and sexually inappropriate ways – for doing things like suggesting that billionaires should pay income taxes. And with Musk now poised to become the god of Twitter, the policy of “free speech for me but not for you” will presumably only soar to new cosmic heights. Already, his lewd tweets are widely alleged to have directly spurred “rampant sexual harassment” at Tesla facilities.

His modus operandi notwithstanding, Musk tweeted on April 25: “I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is

what free speech means.” This sent the Musk fan club into a tizzy of adulation, with Florida Republican congressional candidate Lavern Spicer tweeting in response: “An African American owner of the largest social media company on earth. This is historic.” She went even further on Facebook: “Elon Musk buying Twitter is the 21st century version of Lincoln freeing the slaves.”

It is historic, indeed, for a white billionaire from the country that invented apartheid to achieve the label of “African American”. Then again, anything is possible in the so-called “land of the free” – where “democracy” means that a single individual has \$44bn to buy a social media platform while a ton of folks have no food or a place to sleep.

The Twitter takeover was also celebrated internationally by the likes of El Salvador’s megalomaniac-in-chief Nayib Bukele, who, like Trump, prefers to govern by social media, and who produced various congratulatory tweets with festive emojis. Bukele went on to tweet a Reuters article about new Twitter “hate speech concerns” raised by human rights groups, and added the following encouraging comment in English: “Hahaha go Elon!”

This is the same Bukele, of course, who is currently presiding over a domestic “state of emergency” that has served as the pretext for the indefinite suspension of human rights, civil liberties, and all that good stuff. An additional law spontaneously enacted in early April threatens “anyone who shares information about gangs with up to 15 years in prison”, as The New York Times notes – a move that ef-

fectively criminalises the discussion of Salvadoran reality. So much for free speech.

But back to Musk’s vision of “free speech” that is ultimately not free – and I’m not just talking about the \$44bn price tag. He speaks of the ideal “functioning democracy” in which Twitter serves as the “digital town square” – and yet the Muskian view of democracy is one in which he and he alone is in charge of the universe, whether or not the lowly masses realise their great fortune in having acquired such an overlord.

In the end, Musk is hardly an aberration from the grotesque course of capitalism in the US, where the tyranny of the elite and widespread “human misery” – to appropriate the words of Time magazine – is marketed as a functioning democracy. And while Musk has pledged to “make Twitter better than ever by enhancing the product with new features ... and authenticating all humans”, none of this is very human at all.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

Belen Fernandez is the author of Checkpoint Zipolite: Quarantine in a Small Place (OR Books, 2021), Exile: Rejecting America and Finding the World (OR Books, 2019), Martyrs Never Die: Travels through South Lebanon (Warscapes, 2016), and The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work (Verso, 2011)



Book Review

# WORDS DIVINE, PARAPHRASING HUMAN: 21st Century English Translations the Qur'an by the Native Arabs (Part-II)



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

In the last two decades of 21st Century, many new English Translations of the Qur'an have been produced by the Muslims in the chaste and accessible idiom of the day

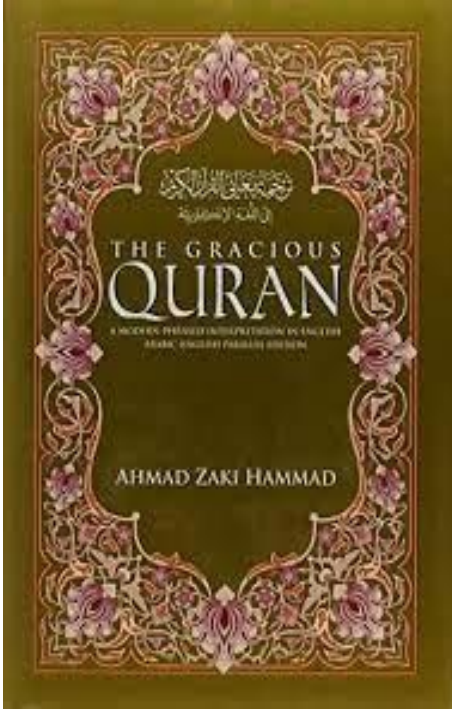
IN CONTINUATION WITH THE PREVIOUS COLUMN (dated 23rd April 2022), below is presented an assessment of three (3) more English translations of 21st century by the native Arabs. These are: Ahmad Zaki Hammad's *The Gracious Qur'an* (2009 [2007]); Mustafa Khattab's *The Clear Quran* (2016); and Waleed B. Al-Amri's *The Luminous Qur'an* (2019).

*Ahmad Zaki Hammad, The Gracious Qur'an: A Modern-Phrased Interpretation in English. Arabic-English Parallel Edition, Third Print (Lisle, LA, USA: Lucent Interpretations, 2009 [2007])*

Ahmad Zaki Hammad (b. 1946) is a renowned Islamic scholar/authority on the Qur'anic and other Islamic sciences. He received his graduation (Almiyyah) from Faculty of Theology, Al-Azhar University (Cairo) and doctorate in Islamic Studies from University of Chicago (USA). He teaches Islamic civilization and major Qur'anic sciences in Faculty of Languages and Translations, Al-Azhar University. He has authored number of books, particularly on the Qur'anic studies.

His English translation of the Qur'an, *The Gracious Quran: A Modern-Phrased Interpretation in English* (2009 [2007]), has seen, in less than a decade as many as 21 editions. It has, thus, set a new record as the "most popular English translation of the Qur'an" and has been estimated (in Kidwai's words) as a "deep and sincere concern and meeting almost all needs of the uninitiated English speaking readers of the Quran." He also has provided widespread and beneficial background information, preparing readers better for grasping the meaning and message of the Qur'an. The translation is overall evaluated as "elegant and reader-friendly" being written in "lucid, idiomatic English", "opted for paraphrases, rather than literal translation of the Qur'anic text" and his explanatory notes in particular and the whole work in general is "truly a treasure house of sound Qur'anic scholarship" and "a monumental English translation".

As a sample, here is the translation of Surah al-Ikhlâs from Hammad's Translation: "Say: He is God. One. God, the Everlasting Refuge. He does not beget. Nor is He begotten. And comparable to Him, there is none." (Q. 112: 1-4)

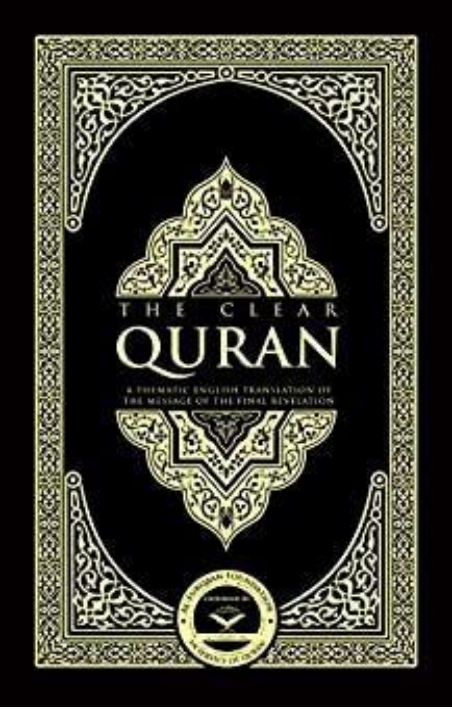


Hammad's claims that he has attempted to provide an idiomatic English translation "with highly reliable accuracy", with implicit intent "conveyed with a light hand in unobtrusive brackets" so that to make its "reading easy, clear, accessible, and ... not inelegant—free of poetic pretension, philosophical complication, and lifeless literalisms". This can be seen, for example, in Q. 2: 2: "This is the Book of God. There is no doubt therein".

*Mustafa Khattab, The Clear Quran: A Thematic English Translation of the Message of the Final Revelation (Lambard, IL, USA: Furqan Institute of Quranic Education, 2016)*

Mustafa Khattab (b. 1977) is a Canadian-Egyptian scholar, an imam and university chaplain, and is considered an authority on the Qur'anic interpretation. He memorized the entire Qur'an at the young age, and later obtained Bachelors', Masters and doctorate degrees in Islamic Studies from Al-Azhar University (Cairo). He is the Fulbright interfaith scholar and Imam in the USA and Canada since 2007 and has authored number of books.

Khattab's English translation of the Qur'an, *The Clear Quran: A Thematic English Translation of the Message of the Final Revelation* (2016) is commendable work and does ample justices with its title. In Kidwai's estimation, it has number of qualities like "reader friendly", "easy to understand" and "succeeds largely in bringing out the meaning and message of the Quran." His command over Arabic (mother tongue) and English (the target language and his experience of several years in West) have contoured the mindset of his target readership. Some of the important feature of his translations highlighted by Kidwai are: (i) A detailed note on the structure, style, proper names and pronouns in the Qur'an; (ii) Answers to some frequently asked questions about Islam; and (iii) insertion of imagina-



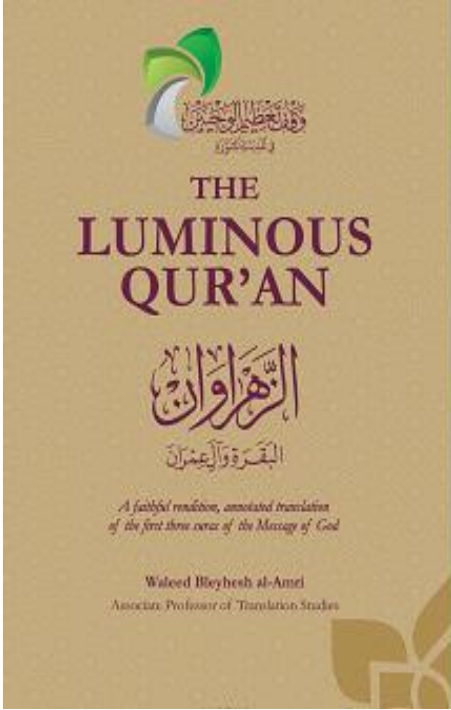
tive icons in content pages listing the titles of 114 Qur'anic chapters, which identify as to which Surahs deal with doctrines, stories and the unseen etc. A valuable feature of the work is brief explanatory notes which "enable readers to fathom better the Qur'anic terms, concepts and personalities", and are highly relevant in modern era. Overall, his translation is "above literal translation", "lucid and idiomatic" and "easy to understand English." Kidwai places Khattab's translation "in the enviable cat-



**In sum, all these five (5) translations by the native Arabs, which have been praised by many scholars and critics equally, present the true meaning and message of the Quran in a chaste, easy to understand English, which is lucid and idiomatic**

egory of the very few English translations ... recommended to readers, Muslims and non-Muslims", and thus praises the translation for offering readers with "the gems of Quranic guidance in their own preferred idiom".

As a sample, here is the translation of Surah Al-Fatiha from Khattab's work: All



praise is for Allah—Lord of all worlds, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment. You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help. Guide us along the Straight Path, the Path of those You have blessed—not those You are displeased with, or those who are astray.

Kidwai, in his *God's Word, Man's Interpretations*, is of the opinion that among all the translations of the Qur'an, the translations of Abdel Haleem, Hammad, Khalidi and Khattab have, collectively and in comparison to others, "succeed[ed] remarkably in conveying the import of the Quran" by presenting "the true meaning and message of the Quran in chaste, easy to understand English", which is lucid and idiomatic.

*Waleed B. Al-Amri, The Luminous Qur'an: A faithful rendition, annotated translation of the first three suras of the Message of God (Madinah, KSA: Endowment for Cherishing the Two Glorious Revelations, 1440/ 2019)*

Waleed Bleyhesh al-Amri is presently an Associate Professor of Translation Studies in the Department of Languages and Translation, College of Arts and Humanities, Taibah University (Madina). He has Masters and doctorate in Translation Studies from Salford University and Manchester University (Britain), respectively. He has to his credit several publications on translation studies. He has command over Arabic and English languages, knowledge of the different nuances of translation and is specialist and expertise in the 'critique of Qur'an translations'. His translation, *The Luminous Qur'an*, is (as its sub-title clearly reveals), "A faithful rendition, annotated translation of the first three Surahs of the Message of God", which presents an easy-to-understand, lucid, and much faithful rendering of first three surahs (Q. 1–3: 493 verses)—namely al-Fatihah, al-Baqarah and Al-'Imran: the latter two are collectively known as 'al-Zahrawan' (literally 'Two Luminous Surahs'), hence the title 'The Lu-

minous Qur'an'. This translation project is sponsored by Endowment for Cherishing the Two Glorious Revelations, Medina and is named as *The Grand Qur'an*, of which *The Luminous Qur'an* is only the first step.

This translation represents, as al-Amri claims, "a safe, mainstream yet non-restrictive understanding of the Message of the Grand Qur'an", which is "marked by its 'faithfulness': neither too literal nor too free" but is "as reflective of the Original as humanly possible". It also claims to be "in modern-day, non-banal, idiomatic, educated English", free from "being archaic" and is "easy to understand to a reader". Preceded by a number of introductory sections on different aspects of Qur'an, its translations and interpretations which help in understanding both the Sacred Text as well as the importance of translations and exegesis, Amri's Translation is very lucid and idiomatic.

One of the unique features of Amri's translation, similar to that of Hammad, is that he occasionally adds single quotation marks (...) to make clear the meaning of some terms, phrases, or the whole verse: e.g., "Only you we worship, and 'only' You we seek help from" (Q. 1: 5); "... believe as 'other' people believed" (Q. 2: 13); and "He is the One Who forms you in 'your mother's' wombs as He wills" (Q. 3: 5). Al-Amri has supplemented the translation with ample footnotes which help in comprehending the content and context of the specific verse.

Taking into consideration all these features, one must not hesitate to say that al-Amri's effort clearly validates and rationalizes the translation's sub-title and justifies his claim to have presented a "non-restrictive understanding of" the Qur'an, which is "neither too literal nor too free" but is "reflective of the Original" Sacred Text. Though it has many similarities with other translations, however, it is unique in many ways as well.

Amri's translation is described as being "remarkable for its dominant concern with representing the mainstream Muslim understanding of the message of the Qur'an in English". Al-Amri, for Kidwai, "has sound credentials to embark upon translating the Qur'an" and "he has been successful in conveying the meaning of the Qur'an in chaste English, which should enable readers to comprehend the contents of the Qur'an and derive guidance from it", and he "deserves credit for having introduced an innovation: placing the extra-Qur'anic material within single quotation marks, rather than inserting the same in parentheses".

In sum, all these five (5) translations by the native Arabs, which have been praised by many scholars and critics equally, present the true meaning and message of the Quran in a chaste, easy to understand English, which is lucid and idiomatic.

*The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at GDC Sogam, Kupwara (J&K). Email: tauseefparray21@gmail.com*

## A Letter to a Weary Ramadan Heart



Mahmoudat Sanni-Oba

To the weary heart starting to tire as we enter the second half of Ramadan, maybe you didn't quite prepare for Ramadan as you wanted to, hoping the month would bring about its revival for a heart you perceive to be sick,

To the weary heart that so far Ramadan has simply been a month of emotional flatlining, you desperately want to tap into the spiritual high that everyone around you is experiencing but to no avail,

O weary heart now is the time your Nafs will start to whisper in your ears, telling you to give up.

Why increase in additional deeds when you feel nothing anyway,

Know that Allah sees your struggles. Know that Allah elevates those with sincerity even with the smallest deed,

Know that Allah's door is never closed and so long as you continue to knock and crawl towards it, even with difficulty he will match it with that which you cannot fathom,

Shaitan wants you to wallow in despair. But your Lord wants your mercy. Do not let your Nafs trick you into giving up. Small actions matter even if you had lofty aspirations of how Ramadan was going to change you.

Talk to Allah and express your struggles to Him.

It may be that your nafs have started filling your mind with distractions. Encouraging you to waste the time away. Why not watch that new TV

series? What impact does it have anyway? Know that this is a trick, a delusion to keep you short-sighted and bound to temporary pleasures. Time is a blessing.

It is indeed a sign of His love for you that you are witnessing this month. Take advantage of it and do not let it go to waste.

O weary soul, your Lord acknowledges your struggles and tells you that He is indeed near to you.

"And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me." [Qur'an 2:186]

It is no mistake that the Qur'an opens and ends with a dua. Regardless of the state you are in, whether you deem yourself worthy of His mercy or not, every day that you are granted life, your Lord is inviting you to have a conversation with Him. To stand before Him, five times, knowing that He is greater than all your sorrows and worries. Anxieties and heartbreak.

Keep struggling. Keep planting the seeds that will eventually blossom.

O weary soul, know that Allah is with you in your struggles and perseverance.

"Your guardian Rabb has not forsaken you, nor is He displeased (with you). And the Hereafter will be better for you than the present." [Qur'an 92:3-4]

It may be that this will indeed be a month for your resurgence.

– Amaliyah

“It may be that your nafs have started filling your mind with distractions. Encouraging you to waste the time away. Why not watch that new TV series? What impact does it have anyway? Know that this is a trick, a delusion to keep you short-sighted and bound to temporary pleasures. Time is a blessing



## China halts freight train traffic with North Korea

### Agenceis

Beijing: China says it halted railroad freight traffic with North Korea as it deals with the spread of COVID-19 in the border town of Dandong.

The countries had reopened trade between Dandong and North Korea's Sinuiju in January following a two-year pause while the North imposed one of the world's most restrictive pandemic border closures despite the strain on its broken economy.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Friday the decision to suspend the freight services was taken in light of the current epidemic situation in Dandong, but he gave no other details.

The Dandong city government on Monday ordered all residents to swiftly return home and stay there to stem the spread of the virus. It said the government would make strenuous efforts to ensure the daily needs of residents but made no mention of links with North Korea and did not say when the lockdown would be lifted.

While many countries are dropping restrictions and trying to live with the virus, China has been sticking to a zero-COVID approach, which requires mass testing and lockdowns and keeping its international borders largely shut.

North Korea's decision to

tentatively reopen-cross border trade with China, its main ally and economic lifeline, possibly reflected a growing urgency in its need for outside relief.

North Korea still claims to have a perfect record in keeping out COVID-19 from its territory a claim widely doubted. But the closure of its border to nearly all trade and visitors for two years further shocked an economy already damaged by decades of mismanagement and crippling US-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programme.

Experts say the North would have focused on importing fertilisers to boost food production, factory goods to spur dismal industrial production, and construction materials to support ambitious development projects that leader Kim Jong Un touts as major accomplishments.

The North has been accelerating its weapons tests in recent months, including its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile since 2017 in March, as it revives brinkmanship to pressure the United States to accept it as a nuclear power and remove sanctions.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with inter-Korean affairs, didn't immediately provide more details on the suspension of freight traffic between North Korea and China. (AP)



## Israeli police clash with Palestinians at Al-Aqsa

### Agenceis

**Jerusalem:** Palestinians hurled stones and Israeli police fired rubber-coated bullets at a major Jerusalem holy site early Friday that has seen waves of unrest in recent weeks.

The police say Palestinians inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound began hurling stones and fireworks shortly around dawn in the direction of a heavily guarded gate that leads to the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray. The police advanced into the compound, firing rubber-coated bullets.

The violence ended around an hour later after other Palestinians in the compound intervened, convincing the stone throwers and the police to pull back.

The Palestinian Red Crescent

emergency service said more than 40 people were wounded, with 22 requiring treatment at local hospitals. It said Israeli forces prevented first responders from entering the compound during the clashes, and that one of its medics was beaten by police.

The police did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but said in a statement they had arrested three people.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is the third holiest site in Islam. It is built on a hilltop that is the most sacred site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the Jewish temples in antiquity. It has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In recent weeks, Israeli police and Palestinians have clashed there on a number of occasions.

Israeli authorities accuse the Hamas militant group ruling Gaza of inciting violence and say security forces were forced to intervene to halt stone-throwing.

The Palestinians say the presence of Israeli police at the site, and regular visits by increasing numbers of nationalist and religious Jews, are a violation of decades-old informal arrangements governing the site. The visits were halted last week for the last 10 days of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which concludes this weekend.

Tens of thousands of Muslims are expected to attend the main Friday prayers at midday. Earlier this week, an estimated 250,000 worshippers gathered at the site for Laylat al-Qadr, a night of intense prayers that marks the culmination of Ramadan, with no reports of violence. (AP)

## Turkey's Erdogan Visits Saudi Arabia To Mend Strained Ties

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has landed in Saudi Arabia in a major reset of relations between two regional heavyweights following the slaying of a Saudi columnist in Istanbul.

The visit marks the latest in Ankara's bridge-building efforts with its key regional rival. It is also Erdogan's first visit to the kingdom since 2017, the year before the murder in Turkey of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents.

Erdogan was greeted at the airport in the Red Sea city of Jiddah by the Mecca governor on Thursday evening. Official photos released by the Saudi Press Agency and the kingdom's Media Ministry showed Turkey's leader accompanied by his wife upon landing.

Earlier this month, Turkey dropped the trial of 26 Saudis suspected of involvement in the killing of Khashoggi, who'd written columns critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for The Washington Post. The move was largely seen as a gesture that paved the way for Erdogan's trip to Saudi Arabia, where he is expected to meet with both King Salman and the crown prince.

Erdogan said his talks in Jiddah will focus on ways to increase cooperation but also discuss regional and international developments.

It is in our common interest to increase our cooperation with Saudi Arabia in areas such as health, energy, food security, agricultural technologies, defense industry and finance, Erdogan said.

Erdogan noted that his two-day visit reflects our common will to start a new period of cooperation as two brotherly countries. It also comes during the last week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which he described as an auspicious

time for strengthening the bonds of brotherhood.

With this understanding, we are engaged in sincere efforts to ensure peace in our region, to solve problems through dialogue and diplomacy, Erdogan said.

Erdogan is also expected to visit Mecca for prayers at Islam's holiest site in the final nights of Ramadan.

Turkey's diplomatic drive has coincided with its worst economic crisis in two decades, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and now the war in Ukraine. Official inflation stands at 61% while the national currency, the lira, has plummeted, falling 44% in value against the dollar in 2021.

The decision earlier this month to transfer the prosecution in Khashoggi's slaying to Saudi Arabia removed the last stumbling block to renewed Turkey-Saudi ties, in particular in Erdogan's relationship with de-facto Saudi ruler, the crown prince.

The killing of Khashoggi in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul sparked global outrage and put pressure on the prince, who was said to have approved the operation to kill or capture Khashoggi, according to a US intelligence assessment. The prince has denied any knowledge of the operation that was carried out by agents who worked directly for him.

Erdogan, while not naming the prince, has said that the order to carry out the assassination came from the highest levels of the Saudi government. Turkish authorities also shared audio of the killing with Western intelligence and a UN investigator.

A court in Saudi Arabia acquitted officials who oversaw the operation, ultimately sentencing five people to death before they were pardoned.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 'We Can Easily

the IPP added.

Currently, coal-starving grids are the primary source of electricity generation at the National Grid.

"If the department allows us to produce power and connect the same to already allotted receiving stations and grids, one IPP can easily supply electricity to at least 10,000 households in their respective plant specific areas," the IPP said.

"But we're running from pillar to post in the department, but no one seems bothered to listen to us."

As of now, the IPP noted, the natural water supply is getting wasted. Also, he said, there's a generation loss besides a massive power loss.

"The hitch is the power department's new grid-rotation policy aiming at subsidising the load on grids and receiving stations," another IPP said.

"Presently, in Kashmir, load has increased and supply availability has decreased. Hypothetically speaking, if there's a requirement of 100 MW, the department can only provide 50 MW as of now. So to fill the gap of the 50 MW shortage, the department is going ahead with the load shedding."

These private power producing units in Kashmir are actually the power injectors and not the consumers.

"If at all, the department has an acute shortage of supply, allow us to inject our supply into the grids," said the IPP. "That way, the 50 MW shortage can be easily subsidised upto an extent. It's better to have some extra units in your possession, than having nothing at all."

Notably, there are over eight independent power producing units in J&K which use the natural water bodies to generate electricity and supply the same to receiving stations of the grids.

"Already, not many in J&K are investing in IPPs," another IPP said. "But if the state already has some four-five private units in the Kashmir region, isn't it liable to find a solution to our grievances? If the power department takes a proactive approach and manages to keep these receiving stations open for us to inject our supply, we can easily solve ongoing power crisis."

As the glaciers are currently thawing, the water supply in the region has increased, which can easily help one IPP to produce at least 100 MW of electricity in one single day.

"It's the time of peak generation as the water availability has increased due to melting of glaciers," the IPP quoted above said.

"My plant is registered for 5MW, which means I can easily produce 100 MW in one single day and supply the same to the government without any hindrance."

There are five such plants in Kashmir. Together, they can produce a total of 500-600 MW of power in one single day.

"But unfortunately," the IPP said, "this energy is going to waste on a daily basis because of the department's negligence."

The IPPs have also claimed that the state buys a unit against a payment of Rs 9 from non-Kashmiri power suppliers. "But we're willing to

provide our supplies for just Rs 4 per unit," the IPP said. "In all the ways, it's J&K that's winning. No one is at the losing end."

When contacted, Chief Engineer, KPDC, Javid Yusuf Dar, said that the administration has issued strict instructions regarding these IPPs.

"We've been clearly asked to provide hassle free grid availability to these units," Javid told Kashmir Observer. "Despite being small scale units, we've provided a hamper less service to them."

The chief engineer said the department is utilising each and every unit of electricity available for a better supply to consumers. "Supply from units in Branwar, Drung and Bandipora are being used at a war footing without any trouble," he said.

However, he asserted, there may have been times when the services of these IPPs would've been cut. "Sometimes, the load increases and it's not possible that we can keep our grids open for these units. This will jeopardise the whole system. There were two complaints from IPP units in Kokernag and Kangan but that were resolved. Rest we're doing everything to maintain a normal supply of power to the region."

However, KPDC's Managing Director, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, told Kashmir Observer that his department appreciates willingness of all those who want to support the local population.

"If any IPP unit is facing a problem in generation or supply of energy, they are more than welcome to sit with us in finding a joint solution for the problem," Dr. Basharat said. "We will do everything in our power to help these units in generation of electricity and its hassle free supply to the state grids."

### Arms From Afghanistan

"I have said this in the past, and I wish to reiterate, that in future conflicts, the troops, on the forward-most locations, ready and in a high state of alertness, may not be the ones to face the first wave of aggression," he had added.

### LG Invites Leading

role in handicrafts, pashmina, carpet and horticulture industries," Sinha said, adding that the administration had provided relief to all businesses in the region during the COVID-19 period.

The LG further said that IMF's GDP projection pegs India at highest for 2022 and it shows rapid growth can only happen due to swift economic reforms. He said the credit should go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for expediting the process of economic growth.

"Family businesses today contribute up to 80 percent to India's GDP. Family businesses provide utility to customers, generate jobs, fund startups and have a key role to play in achieving the (USD) 5 trillion economy," Sinha added.

The awards ceremony, which will assemble a power-packed list of the who's who of policymaking and industry, will celebrate the indefatigable spirit of enterprises spanning a raft of sectors that are playing a vital role.

### Shab-e-Qadr,

mosque had been informed by the authorities that the Shab-e-Qadr and Juma-tul-Vida prayers will not be held there as they apprehended protests.

As part of the festivities, Muslims thronged mosques and shrines across the valley, on Thursday night for prayers and recitation of the Quran as the fasting month is about to end.

Thousands of devout Muslims gathered at Hazratbal, and other mosques and shrines across the valley, including the Dastgir Sahib and Sayed Yaqoob Sahab shrines here to pray.

In absence of the prayers at Jamia Masjid, the biggest gathering on Juma-tul-Vida, was held at Dargah Hazratbal where devotees from all over the Valley converged.

No congregational prayers were held at the historic Jamia Masjid of Srinagar due to government ban order.

Similarly, large congregation prayers were also at other shrines and mosques across the length and breadth of the Valley.

Devotees were also seen offering Friday prayers on the streets adjacent to several mosques and shrines at various places.

### Lt Gen Raju

into the JAT Regiment on December 15, 1984. In his illustrious career spanning 38 years, he had commanded his battalion during 'Operation Parakram' in the Western theatre and in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Gen Raju holds the distinction of commanding the Uri brigade along the Line of Control, a counter-insurgency force and at the Srinagar-based Chinari Corps.

The officer also served as the commandant of the Indian military training team in Bhutan.

The officer also served in several important regimental, staff and instructional appointments in the Army headquarters and in field formations.

"The general officer is a qualified helicopter pilot having carried out operational flying in Somalia, as part of UNOSOM II (UN peacekeeping and humanitarian missions II)," the defence ministry said.

"Lt Gen Raju has attended all important career courses in India and has had the privilege of doing his NDC at Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom," it said in a statement. He also holds a distinguished Master's programme degree in counter terrorism at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey in the US.

For his illustrious contribution to the service, he has been awarded Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Yudh Seva Medal.

### EU's Gilmore

relation to FCRA, detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorism laws, UAPA, minorities and individual cases, was discussed.

According to sources in the Minority Affairs Ministry, Naqvi told the delegation that constitutional and religious rights of every section are absolutely safe in India but "nobody has the right to indulge in forceful and fraudulent religious conversion".

Naqvi is also learnt to have told the delegation that "not a single major communal riot has taken place in India since 2014", but there were

some conspiracies to "give communal colour" to isolated criminal incidents.

The minister told the delegation that some people have been constantly trying to "defame" Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India as a part of a "conspiracy," the sources said.

He said that sometimes they write letters, while at other times they raise the "bogy of Islamophobia", according to the sources.

Naqvi also emphasised that the Modi government has given scholarships to over five crore minority students in the last eight years.

He also told the delegation that the percentage of minorities in central government jobs has significantly increased to above 10 per cent.

The sources said the minister told the delegation that terrorist organisations such as al-Qaeda and ISIS may have been successful in their "nefarious designs" in Europe and other countries but they never succeeded in India.

This is only because of India's strength of cultural co-existence and unity in diversity, he said, according to the sources.

Naqvi tweeted Thursday that he apprised the EU delegation of the effective results of welfare programmes being carried out by the Modi government for the socio-economic-educational empowerment of all sections of the society, including minorities.

### Spurious Drug Case

is vicariously liable for the negligence and for the payment of the monetary relief of Rs 3 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased children," the rights panel said.

Thereafter, the UT administration had responded that the monetary compensation shall remain subject to the outcome of the special leave petition pending before the Supreme Court, the statement said.

However, the compliance report, along with the proof of the payment of the recommended relief was submitted when the Commission reiterated its recommendations issuing a final reminder to the chief secretary, as well as the additional secretary, department of health and medication, UT of J-K to submit the report, failing which it will be constrained to invoke its coercive power under Section 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 calling for the personal appearance of the authority concerned before it, the panel added.

The J-K High Court had reportedly upheld the NHRC recommendations for payment of relief holding the UT administration "vicariously responsible" for the negligence when it challenged the Commission's recommendations, the statement said.

### Go First To Restart

said, Airlines need bilateral rights -- which are granted under air services agreement signed between the two countries -- to operate scheduled international passenger flights.

The Airlines used to operate the Srinagar-Sharjah flight under air bubble arrangement that was in place till March 26, 2022. However the arrangements were cancelled when India resumed scheduled international passenger flights on March 27, 2022.

According to PTI, Go First Spokesperson said that the airline has got the bilateral rights

to operate five flights per week on Srinagar-Sharjah-Srinagar route.

"We will restart flights on this route in the next few days. However, the frequency is yet to be decided," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving extension of Srinagar-Sharjah flights.

He also observed that regular International flights between Srinagar & Sharjah will help in boosting trade and tourism.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG further noted that the UT administration, Ministry of Civil Aviation under Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation is taking necessary steps on priority to strengthen air connectivity to cater to the growing tourism and industry sectors.

He said that the direct air link between the Valley and the UAE revived after 11 years in October last year has immense potential to strengthen J&K's ties with the Gulf region, creating market linkages and enabling direct export of J&K's Agriculture, Horticulture & Handicraft products.

"The UT administration has taken several steps to ensure that air traffic to the Union Territory- Jammu, Srinagar airports would grow unhindered in the future. Jammu airport recently achieved a milestone by recording the highest ever footfall at 1.54 lakh passengers in the month of March on 1346 flights," the spokesperson said.

Similarly, he said, over 5,85,653 tourists have visited the Kashmir valley between January to 27th April this year, which is 5 times more than the last year's figure of 1.26 lakh during the same period.

### 3 Soldiers Injured

patrol along the Line of Control in the Krishnaghati Sector, there was a mine blast," a defence spokesman said, adding that three Army personnel were injured in the explosion.

### Mortar Shells

other material in the plant nursery at Toliowpora Nopora area of Qaimoh this evening.

"Security forces later destroyed shells through a controlled explosion," the official added-- (KNO)

### J&K Logs Four

of the Union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of two cases.

There are 65 active cases in the Union territory, while the number of recovered patients is 4,49,216, officials said.

The death toll stands at 4,751.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

### Teen Drowns, Another

by locals to save the duo.

However, only one of them was rescued and taken to hospital while the body of another youth, Sajad, was retrieved. (GNS)



## Protests, Rallies Mark Al-Quds Day In Kashmir



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Thousands of people across the Kashmir Valley observed last Friday of Ramadan as Yaum-ul-Quds or Al Quds Day in solidarity with oppressed Palestinians during which rallies, protest demonstrations were taken out from various mosques of the region.

The last Friday of the Ramadan or Jumat-ul-Vida is observed as Al Quds day every year. This year too, the religious groups had appealed to people to mark Jumat-ul-Vida as Al Quds Day.

The largest pro-Palestine rally was taken out in Central Kashmir's Budgam district where hundreds of people expressed solidarity with Palestine and vowed their support to Palestinians in their fight against occupation. The protesters chanted anti-Israel and anti-US slogans while marching through various streets of the Budgam town.

Reports of rallies on Quds day were also received from Magam, Inderkote, Bandipora, Pattan and other parts of the Valley.

In Singhpora's Yakmanpora village a rally was taken out from main Chowk to Eidgah in which a huge number of people took part and raised slogans against the enemies of Islam and humanity.

Addressing the protesters, Moulvi Aijaz Hussain Bhat threw light on the significance of the day and reiterated the support to the Palestinian nation.

In Hassanabad locality of Srinagar, hundreds of people holding placards, banners and Palestine flags took out a pro-Palestine rally. The protesters also condemned what they termed Israeli aggression during the holy month of Ramadan.

Similar reports were also received from Pandrethan, Zadibal and other parts of the city.

## IUST Hosts Awareness Prog On Drug De-Addiction



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** As a part of Islamic University of Science & Technology's outreach programme, its constituent college Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCNMT) Awantipora, organized one-day Drug De-Addiction Awareness programme in collaboration with the Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (IMHANS) Rainawari, Srinagar, at Sultan-ul-Arfeen Higher Secondary Public School, Rainawari.

The Red Ribbon Club organized this camp under the supervision of the office of Dean Outreach, IUST and was convened by Principal SMMCNMT, Ms. Asmat Parveen. More than 200 students and faculty members form Sultan-ul-Arfeen Higher Secondary Public School, Kashmir attended the programme, which was organised in view of the escalating drug Addiction

cases in Kashmir.

While highlighting the importance of awareness regarding drug abuse, the nursing students of SMMCNMT deliberated on the existing drug addiction scenario in Kashmir. They discussed issues like causes, signs and symptoms, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment strategies of substance abuse, under the guidance of Prof. Yasir Hassan.

Medical Superintendents Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Baba and HOD Dr. Mohd Maqbool Dar, from IMHANS Srinagar lauded the efforts of IUST's Nursing Colleges in organizing such health awareness programmes for the benefit of general public. The awareness programmes followed with question answer session and short awareness rallies held in the respective areas.

Faculty from SMMCNMT, Ms. Humaira Qadir (Tutor) presented the welcome address and Ms. Rumysa Yousuf (Tutor) presented the vote of thanks.

## CBI Arrests Tax Officer For Accepting Bribe

**SRINAGAR:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested a State Taxes Officer, Circle Kathua (J&K) for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 13,000 from the complainant.

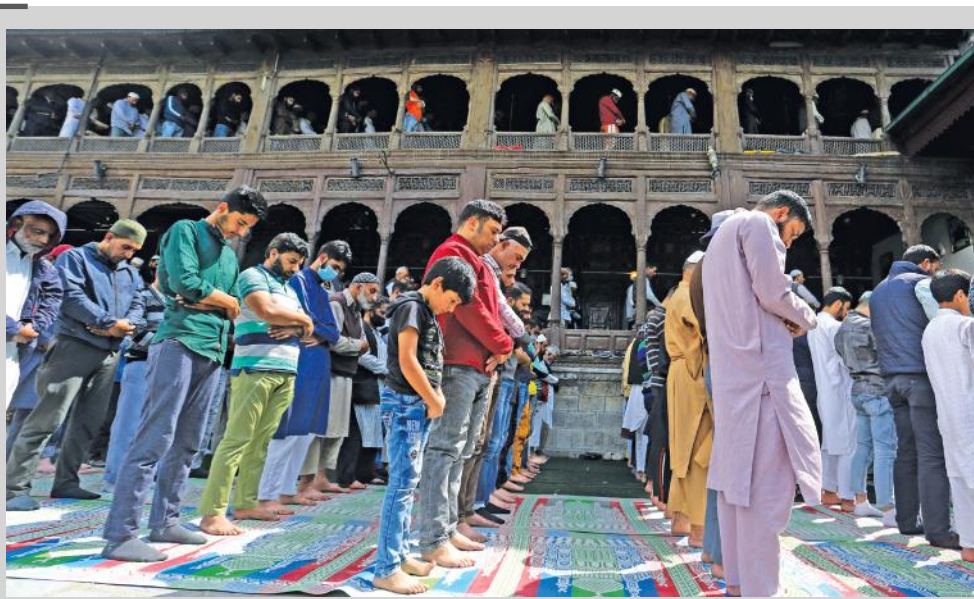
As per a statement, a case was registered on a complaint against the accused on allegations of demanding bribe.

It was alleged that the complainant had filed applications with State GST office, Circle Kathua for claiming refund of excess balance in electronic cash ledger and for taking registration under GST for his new firm.

It was further alleged that the State Taxes Officer, Circle Kathua demanded a bribe of Rs 15,000 from the complainant for processing his refund claim and the matter of GST registration. Later, the bribe was negotiated at Rs 13,000.

CBI laid a trap and caught the State Taxes Officer red handed while demanding & accepting a bribe of Rs 13,000 from the complainant. The searches are being conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused at Kathua, Jammu and Samba.

The arrested accused will be produced before the designated court.



**DEVOTEES OFFERING CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS** on Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the ongoing holy month of Ramadan, inside the 13th century shrine of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani in the Old City of Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## MeT Predicts 3-Day Wet Spell From May 3

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Weatherman forecast light rain at isolated places towards afternoon on Saturday as well as scattered to widespread moderate spell during May 3-5 in Kashmir Valley.

"At present, weather is generally cloudy throughout Kashmir and hilly areas of Jammu," a meteorological department official said on Friday.

"(There is) no large change. A brief spell of light rain may occur at isolates places of Kashmir towards late afternoon, today n tomorrow," he said, adding, "There's no forecast of any significant weather."

He said a Western Disturbance (WD) was most likely to cause scattered to widespread moderate rain and snow during May 3-5. "The forecast is being monitored closely, as it may changes

as the day comes nearer."

The official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 12.5°C against 12.2°C on the previous night. The temperature, he said, was 3.2°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

Qazigund recorded a low of 11.4°C against 9.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.6°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 10.5°C against 11.6°C on the previous night. It was 2.4°C above normal during this time of the season for the place in south Kashmir, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum of 7.2°C against 6.4°C last night. The temperature was 2.8°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir during this time of the season, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.0°C against 8.0°C on the previous night, the official said. While 4.2°C is normal for the world famous skiing resort during this time of the season, the official said that the temperature was 0.2°C below normal for the place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 11.6°C against 9.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.8°C above normal for the district, the official told Global News Service.

Jammu recorded a low of 30.0°C against 23.9°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 8.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 12.2°C, Batote 12.6°C and Bhaderwah 13.1°C, the official said.

## PDD Taking Steps To Ensure Adequate Power Supply: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Power Development Department (PDD) was able to supply 1575 MW and 170 LAC units of energy which is the highest load served to Kashmir valley on the occasion of Shab-e-Qadr from 1800 hrs of 28th April 2022 to 0600 hrs of 29th April 2022, an official spokesperson said Friday.

This is 55 MW more peak achieved and about 7 Lac units of more energy supplied vis-a-vis last year's Shab-e-Qadr. During the same time period last year, 1520 MW peak load

was served and 163 Lac units of energy supplied.

Maximum load served on 29th April 2021 for Jammu Division was 1001 MW which was increased to 1145 MW on 29th April 2022. At 5PM on 29th April 2021, 752 MW was served in Jammu Division which was increased to 1054 MW this year, which is 302 MW more than the last year. At 2PM 29th April last year, 894 MW load was served which was increased to 1065 MW this year for Jammu Division. Similarly, at 3PM last year, 945 MW was served which was enhanced to 1113 MW this year.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary, PDD said he is grateful to the Union Power Minister Sh. RK Singh for providing additional 207 MW to Jammu & Kashmir and this will substantially add to the power availability of the Union Territory.

"We are trying to procure as much power as available at the energy exchange at whichever price. But, due to increased nationwide demand, we can avail limited power only. However, I am confident the situation will improve in coming days and we will be able to give better supply," Kumar said.

## ARI, Trainings Dept Mulling To Push For Seeking Administrative Control Of BOPEE

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings department is mulling to seek administrative control of the Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE), which is lying with the General Administration Department.

A record note of a meeting of the ARI & Trainings department reveals that the matter came up for discussion during its meeting held on April 01.

During the meeting, the department decided that after due deliberations on the matter, it shall raise the matter of shifting back administrative control of BOPEE with GAD and allocation of the Board's budget with the Finance department.

"The chair was also informed that Board of Professional En-

trance Examinations (BOPEE) is under the administrative control of ARI Trainings Department but in the past, an administrative secretary who was holding the charge of both General Administrative Department and ARI Trainings, shifting its working, allocation of budget, etc. from its parent department ARI & Trainings to GAD for convenience of working and the same arrangement has been continuing till date," reads the record note of the meeting.

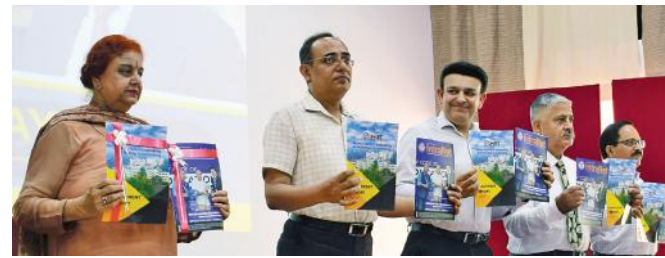
The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations Act was set-up in 2002 after the J&K legislature passed a bill for the same.

Before 1987, selections for medical and engineering courses in J&K were made by a designated government department in the civil secretariat as an additional item of its work. With

an increase in the number of students appearing in entrance examinations, the government constituted a full-time examining body, Competent Authority Entrance Examinations in 1987. The purpose of creating a full-time examining body was to organize entrance tests in a more transparent and orderly manner based on the pattern followed in other States/UTs—(KNO)

## Quality Private Investment Has A Significant Role To Play In Upgrading The Educational Ecosystem: Kansal

Says Curriculum Design Must Keep Pace With Industry Needs To Enhance Employability



**JAMMU:** "Private investment can contribute significantly in enhancing the quality of higher and technical education in J&K. The recent initiatives in the industrial policy of J&K welcome investments in higher and technical education. But higher learning institutes both private and public need to constantly upgrade their curricula to keep pace with the needs of a rapidly changing workplace. Initial placement is only the first step towards the larger scheme of work and students must continuously keep updating themselves to face the challenges of the real world."

These remarks were made by Principal Secretary Higher Education Department on his visit to the Model Institute of Engineering & Technology, MIET Jammu. Kansal was the Chief Guest on the occasion of the placement day of the institute wherein over 350 final year engineering students who had received placement offers were interacting with the faculty, management and selected guests.

Dr Renu Gupta, Chairperson MIER Group was the Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Kansal stressed on the need to nurture skilled individuals in order to meet industry demands. Citing 'unemployment paradox of India', the Principal Secretary said that there is a huge gap in demand and supply of "workplace ready" skilled individuals whom companies are ready to hire. He also underlined the need to give quality education and skill training to the youth.

Industry 4.0 is here and a lot of existing jobs would be gone with it, while creating many other new jobs. Half of the jobs that young participants of the workforce will perform in 2030 may be unknown today, said the Principal Secretary.

"Technology has made remote collaboration possible and has enabled talented people get jobs from across the world. It is also causing massive shift and unforeseen changes in job market", said the Principal Secretary. He therefore urged young students to keep up to date with the latest from all over the world.

## LMD Realizes Rs 13.2 Lakh Fine During Ramadan

**SRINAGAR:** In order to protect the interest of Consumers during the holy month of Ramadhan, Legal Metrology Department conducted intensive market checking campaigns across the UT of J&K.

During the campaign 586 cases were registered against the erring traders who were found violating various sections of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The violators were found across different business establishment and outlets including LPG dealers, Vegetable, Fruit, mutton and poultry sellers as well.

During the drive, the department realized a fine of Rs 13,00,250 as fine from such traders after they pleaded for compounding of their cases departmentally.

The department also redressed the various complaints which were received against traders indulging in overcharging and pasting inflated MRP stickers on the products.

It is pertinent to mention that

Controller Legal Metrology J&K, Majid K A Drabu, had earlier instructed all the officers of the Department to intensify the Market checking inspections during the month of Ramadhan to prevent any unfair trade practices adopted by the unscrupulous traders.

In addition to the urban areas, special market checking campaigns were launched towards the rural belts of Jammu and Kashmir Regions as well and by the order of the Controller LMD, special teams were constituted and sent to inspect areas like Mandi, Mendhar, Bani, Basohli, Chenani, Chhatroo etc, in the Jammu region and Beerwah, Khanshib, Lar, Kangan, Damhal Hanji Pora, Devsar etc in the Kashmir Region.

The department also aims to continue its market checking drives in the coming days on the eve of upcoming festival of Eid.

LMD reiterates that in case of any complaint, the consumers are requested to contact the Department.

### From Office Of The Advocate Rafiq Ahmad Bhat Advocate Chamber No 13 Lic No 302/2016

2ND FLOOR MUNIR MANZIL REGAL CHOWK SRINAGAR

In the case of  
Farooq Ahmad Dar S/o Gh. Rasool Dar  
R/o Doniwari

(Caveators)

V/S  
PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C The caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/ misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

FKO-X

## Plan Allocation For Panchayats Doubled From Rs 5136 Cr To Rs 12600 Cr

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** To enhance grass-roots level democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, Democratic decentralization through Panchayati Raj Institutions was established with historic implementation of the 73rd Amendment, which envisages the Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayat Raj system and empowers Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

The decentralization of powers in J&K helps grassroot rep-

resentatives to participate in political, economic and social activities of their respective areas effectively. It also increases the responsiveness of the Government to the needs of the people.

"The government is able to reach a larger number of people with services, consequently increasing the spread of governance and tax collection. It also strengthens national integration," an official said.

The history of strengthening grassroots democracy was cre-

ated in J&K with the conduct of free, fair and peaceful panchayat elections. These panchayat elections recorded a substantial 74.1 per cent voter turnout. A total of 3650 sarpanches and 23660 panchs were elected to lay the foundation for the three-tier Panchayati Raj system for the first time across J&K.

After the successful conduct of Panchayat elections, elections for Block Development Councils (BDCs) were conducted for the very first time in the his-

tory of J&K. The BDC elections saw an overwhelming voter turnout of 98.3 per cent in which 276 chairpersons were elected in a total transparent manner.

Finally, District Development Council elections were held in 8 phases which witnessed a tremendous voter turnout of 51.7 per cent. The process elected 20 DDC Chairpersons and 20 Vice-Chairpersons besides a total of 278 DDC members were also elected, thus completing the implementation of 3-tier Pan-

chayati Raj system here.

In his recent speech at Palli village of Samba, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi described the Panchayat Diwas celebrations in Jammu and Kashmir as indicative of big change, adding that Central government schemes are now getting implemented expeditiously and are directly benefiting people.

He also said that it is a matter of great pride that democracy in Jammu and Kashmir has reached the grassroots.,

Announcement ( Under the MCI Ethics & Regulations 6,1 )

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### SUPER SPECIALITY OPD AT: Kashmir Clinics

CONSULTANT	SPECIALITY	DATE & TIME
<b>Dr. Sameer Kaul</b>	Sr.Consultant-Clinical Oncology	7TH MAY .11:00 AM TO 03:00 PM 8TH MAY .02:30 PM TO 05:00 PM
<b>Dr. Sudheer Tyagi</b>	Sr.Consultant-Neuro Surgery	7TH MAY .11:00 AM TO 03:00 PM
<b>Dr.Sandeep Guleria</b>	Sr.Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon	7TH MAY .11:00 AM TO 03:00 PM
<b>Dr. Syed Uzair</b>	Consultant Gastroenterology, Hepatology & therapeutic Endoscopy	7TH MAY .11:00 AM TO 03:00 PM
<b>Dr. Arun Prasad</b>	Senior, GI, Bariatric & Robotic Surgeon.	7TH MAY .10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

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**FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT: APOLLO INFORMATION CENTER , JABBAR COMPLEX , BATWARA**  
**MOB: 7889676832, 9419076944. ( DILEEP KAPOOR PH:9419281963 )**



BIHAR SPORTS CONCLAVE 2022

## Odisha Sports Model Best In India: Achyuta Samanta



Observer News Service

**BHUBANESWAR:** Odisha Sports Model is the best model in India, said Dr. Achyuta Samanta, MP, Kandhamal and Founder, KIIT and KISS, during the Bihar Sports Conclave 2022. The two-day Conclave, organised by the Bihar Government, was inaugurated by Dr. Alok Ranjan, Minister, Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar at Patna on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering as a guest of the conclave Dr. Samanta said, "One has to take lead with utmost dedication and selflessness to take the state to a new height in the Sports sector. First of all, we have to create the best sports infrastructure."

Appreciating the Odisha Sports Model Dr. Samanta added, "Odisha has become the sports capital of India under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha. Mr. Patnaik has a special interest in sports and he has given more importance to sports. Today, Odisha is organising many national and international sports events. The

Government of Odisha has created a huge world-class sports infrastructure. Odisha govt. has taken sports to grassroot level."

"As a result, Odisha has produced many national and international sportspersons. Odisha is the number one state in India to promote sportspersons and the prize money given by govt. of Odisha to national and international sportspersons is highest in the country," he added.

"Every state should follow the Odisha sports model. KIIT and KISS has an enormous contribution to sports and has been given importance to sports as academic from its inception. KIIT & KISS the only educational institution in India has created a huge world-class sports infrastructure."

Today KIIT and KISS has attracted national and international players and sports bodies to organise national and international sports events here. Among others, Rahul Bose, President, Rugby India, and many eminent sportspersons and coaches were present in this programme.

## 3rd Edition Ramadan Volleyball Cup Enters Quarterfinal Stage



Ahsan Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the ongoing 3rd Edition Ramadan Volleyball Cup were played on Friday, here.

In the first match, Grand Lions VB Club Bemina defeated Rehmat VB Club Hassanabad 2-0, while in the second game, Friends VB Club Habak clinched a hard-fought victory over Barkat VB Club Hassanabad with a 2-1 scoreline.

With Friday's results, Grand Lions VB Club Bemina and Friends VB Club Habak registered their

spots in the quarterfinals of the competition.

The 3rd Edition of Ramadan Volleyball Cup 2022 is being organised in memory of Late Sheikh Tulal Ahmad by Hussaini Sports Club at Volleyball Court Hassanabad, Rainawari.

Respectable persons from Mohalla Hassanabad including Mohammad Yousuf Beigh, Haji Ali Mohammad Dar, Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Yusuf Dar were guests of honour during the occasion and appreciated the participants during the match.

## Mohamed Salah Wins Football Writers' Association Awards

Agencies

**LONDON:** Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah was voted "Footballer of the Year" in England for a second time, and Chelsea striker Sam Kerr has won the women's award.

The Football Writers' Association announced its awards on Friday and reported Salah garnered 48% of the vote, ahead of Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne and West Ham midfielder Declan Rice.

The Egypt star, who also won in 2018, has tallied 30 goals and 14 assists across all competitions for Liverpool this season.

Liverpool trails Manchester City by one point in the Premier League title race, so it's no surprise their players dominated the votes; nine Liverpool players received nominations, and City had six.

The award has gone to a Liverpool or City player for five straight seasons. City defender Ruben Dias won last year.

## Kohli In Focus As RCB Take On GT In IPL

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Batting stalwart Virat Kohli's wretched form would once again come under scrutiny when Royal Challengers Bangalore face table-toppers Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Kohli has scored a mere 128 runs in nine matches for RCB this season with 48 being his highest score. His promotion to opening slot in RCB's previous match after scoring back-to-back ducks too did not yield results as he was out for 9.

Kohli's form has been one of the reasons for the inconsistent show of RCB who are currently at fifth spot with five wins from nine matches.

The Bengaluru-based team, though, is hoping that the former India captain would return to form soon with captain Faf du Plessis backing him after their last match.

On the other hand, the Titans have been the side to watch this IPL. Whatever they have touched have turned to gold with unlikely match winners emerging every time they were in trouble.

With seven wins from eight matches and on a five-match winning streak, the Titans are the clear favourites to win Saturday's match. If they do that, they will



virtually book a play-off berth.

The Titans have shown that if their top-order fails, there is assurance that the lower order can bail the team out, though captain Hardik Pandya was hoping that his side's luck does not run out later in the tournament.

For the Titans, Pandya has been the top scorer with 305 runs from seven matches and under his "relaxed" approach the team seems to be flourishing. He will once again be the top man to get the runs, along with the likes of Shubman Gill, David Miller and Wriddhiman Saha.

Mohammed Shami has been the best bowler for the Titans with 13 wickets and with fast bowler Lockie Ferguson and

premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan -- though he went wicketless for 45 runs in the previous match -- in their ranks, the Titans have a lethal bowling attack which can decimate any opposition.

RCB also have firepower in bowling in death-over specialist Harshal Patel, who has taken 12 wickets so far, the equally successful Sri Lankan Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva (13 wickets) and along with quality pacers like Mohammed Siraj and Josh Hazlewood, they can stop the Titans' batters on their tracks.

If they do that, and the maestro Kohli clicks with the bat, it can be anybody's game on Saturday.

## IPL: RR Face Struggling MI

Press Trust of India

**NAVI MUMBAI:** On a three-match winning streak, Rajasthan Royals have the momentum as well as source of inspiration when they face bottom-placed and out-of-reckoning Mumbai Indians in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

The Royals will be celebrating the extraordinary life of their lone IPL title-winning captain Shane Warne, who died last month in Thailand, during this game. A win would give a perfect tribute to the legendary Australian spinner under whose inspirational leadership, the Royals had won the 2008 title.

While Rajasthan, placed second in the standings, have lost only two games and won six, Mumbai are already out of contention for a play-off berth, having lost all their eight matches so far.

After mustering just 144 runs in their last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, the Royals would be hoping for an improvement from their batters.

Their openers Jos Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal have been among the runs. Buttler has already slammed three hundreds and the challenge for the MI bowlers would be to find ways to stop the marauding Englishman.

Skipper Sanju Samson and Shimron Hetmyer possess the shots to hammer the Mumbai attack and there is also the firepower of Riyan Parag, who hit an unbeaten 56 in the last game, and Daryl Mitchell, as the Royals middle-order looks settled.



The Royals' bowlers have been in top form as the pacers as well as the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 18 scalps, doing well so far.

Pacer Trent Boult is wreaking havoc and is ably supported by Prasidh Krishna, who has been effective in the death overs. With his delivery that comes in, Boult can trouble Mumbai's top batters.

Mumbai, on the other hand, need a collective effort. The out-of-form opening duo of Rohit and Ishan Kishan need to find ways to get going and the same holds good for the middle-order batters.

Kishan, with 199 runs from eight outings, has not justified his Rs 15.25 crore price tag. Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and Dewald Brevis have had their moments of individual brilliance, but they need to fire in unison.

Mumbai's bowling has been even a bigger concern. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been at his best but has lacked support from the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith.

## Australia Names Full-Strength Squads For Sri Lanka Tour



Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Australia will be at close to full strength for all three legs of its Sri Lankan tour as 34 players were named Friday for the all-format matches in June and July.

Marcus Harris was the biggest surprise after not being named in the 16-man test squad which will play two matches in Galle to end the seven-week tour. The tour begins with three Twenty20 matches followed by five one-day internationals.

Star players Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, David Warner, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade and Glenn Maxwell have all returned to the limited-overs squads having missed the recent white-ball games in Pakistan.

It will be new head coach Andrew McDonald's first tour with the team.

Test captain Pat Cummins will sit out the T20 matches while first-choice spinner Adam Zampa will miss the entire tour due to the impending birth of his first child. Fringe players could still push their cases for inclusion in the test series in the two four-day games for Australia A in Hambantota.

"It's incredibly exciting to have an Australia A component which offers the further flexibility and opportunity for players to be available for and cross over into all squads," said selection chief George Bailey.

"That could be from a test or white-ball preparation perspec-

### AUSTRALIA TOUR OF SRI LANKA:

June 7: 1st T20, Colombo

June 8: 2nd T20, Colombo

June 11: 3rd T20, Kandy

June 14: 1st ODI, Kandy

June 16: 2nd ODI, Kandy

June 19: 3rd ODI, Colombo

June 21: 4th ODI, Colombo

June 24: 5th ODI, Colombo

June 29-July 3: 1st test, Galle

July 8-12: 2nd test test, Galle

tive or an opportunity to impress at an international level."

Australia squads:

Test: Pat Cummins (captain), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marcus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.

ODI: Aaron Finch (captain), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.

Twenty20: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade, David Warner (AP)

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