

HEADLINES TODAY

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Killers of Sanjay Sharma Gunned Down in Pulwama Gunfight : J&K Police Two Militants, A Soldier died during the Encounter

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 28: Two militants and a soldier were killed in an encounter with security forces in Padgampora village of Awantipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district in the early hours of Tuesday. Police said that the duo killed militants affiliated with the Resistance Front(TRF), which is an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba were responsible for the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Sharma on Sunday. "In a bravely executed operation, based upon specific input, joint forces of the Army, J&K Police and CRPF launched a cordon in Padgampora village of Awantipora,"



the J&K police said in a statement. "During the search, terrorists hiding inside a mosque opened indiscriminate fire upon search parties and in this initial exchange of fire, two jawans of Army sustained grievous injuries while neutralizing one terrorist on spot. One of the jawans later on attained martyrdom," it said. The police said extreme caution and limited firepower was used in view of the sacred precincts. Civilians praying inside

were also evacuated on time preventing any collateral damage. "Resuming the search for the second terrorist who had holed up inside a bathroom of an adjacent building, again caution was exercised and 14 civilians were rescued from the place before he was neutralized," it said. They have been identified as Aqib Mush-taq Bhat of Malangpora, Pulwama (A Category) associated with Proscribed terror outfit HM and for past few months working with TRF and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat of Syedabad Pastuna Tral (C-Category) associated with terror outfit JeM and also working in co-ordination TRF. Aqib

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5G Service is Need of the Hour to Ensure Socio-Economic Development : LG Manoj Sinha LG Congratulates People of J&K after Launching Jio 5G Services

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched Jio True 5G Services for Jammu & Kashmir today. Congratulating the citizens of the J&K UT, the Lt Governor said the 5G services will play an active role in socio-economic development, enable integrated action for prosperity and bring transformational benefits to the people. "The 5G technology for the common man will realize the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Digital India and give a boost to growth opportunities in tourism, e-governance, agriculture, education, healthcare, information technology and small & micro enterprises," said the Lt Governor. The Lt Governor underscored the significance of adopting future technologies and their effective utilization for holistic

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Lt Governor interacts with citizens who had filed their complaints on JKIGRAMS; several cases disposed on the spot

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with citizens, who had filed their complaints on JKIGRAMS, during the "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing" at the Civil Secretariat. During the public hearing, several cases were disposed of on the spot for which the applicants expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor. The Lt Governor directed the officials to safeguard the interests of the common citizens and ensure that the grievances are attended promptly. "JKIGRAMS complaint mechanism is serving a range of objectives including feedback

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'Digital J&K' to usher in a golden chapter in the UT: CS Launches integration of services with Digi Locker & Umang app

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today remarked that the progress achieved towards the goal of 'Digital J&K' in recent times is one of the brightest chapters that would go down as the most transformative part in the history of the UT.



He made these remarks while launching the integration of services of Municipalities with Umang and artisan related services on Digi Locker applications.

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Take stringent action against OGWs: DGP to officers

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, Feb 28: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Tuesday chaired a meeting of State Investigation Unit (SIU) officers at PCR Kashmir to review the progress of under investigation UAPA cases besides took stock of cases under trial. Spl DG CID J&K R.R Swain, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, DIG SIU Abdul Qayoom, SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal,



DD Prosecution besides all CIOs of SIUs of Kashmir Zone attended the meeting at PCR Kashmir while ADGP (Coordination) PHQ,

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Amid clamour for troop-cut, MHA team arrives on 3-day JK visit To review security on today

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, Feb 28: A high-level team of top officers of the Home Ministry on Tuesday reached Jammu and Kashmir for a three-day visit to review security situation and developmental works amid clamour for troop-cut from the UT. Official sources told

the progress on the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and issues pertaining to Kashmiri Pandit migrants, Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK), West Pakistani refugees and displaced persons (DPs). However, a detailed security situation was reviewed with stakeholders including army, police and other paramilitary forces scheduled for March 1. The team also reviewed

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NEWS IN BRIEF

DMA issues 'low danger' avalanche warning in Ganderbal district

Srinagar, Feb 28 (UNI) Authorities in Kashmir valley on Tuesday issued a 'low danger' level avalanche warning over the higher reaches of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) today issued a 'low danger' level avalanche warning over higher reaches of Ganderbal district for next 24 hours. The avalanche is likely to occur in the areas 2500 metres above sea level in the district. People living in these areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Man killed after hit by a moving train in Baramulla

Srinagar, Feb 28 (UNI) A 40-year-old man was killed when a moving train hit him in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday, officials said. Police identified the victim as Hafeez-ullah-Gani of Chanderhama Pattan, who was hit and subsequently run over by the moving train at Pattan-Hamray railway station in north Kashmir at around 10.15 am. The victim was apparently mentally unsound and died on the spot instantly, they said.

CRPF jawan allegedly shoots self to death in Rajouri

Jammu, Feb 28 (UNI) A jawan of Central Reserve Police Force on Tuesday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Nowshera area of Rajouri. Police said that the CRPF jawan posted at Tain Bridge Nowshera allegedly shot himself with his service rifle. They said that an in-house inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the reason behind the extreme step.

Tourist from Kerala dies in Srinagar

Srinagar, 28-Feb; A male tourist from Kerala died at a hotel in summer capital Srinagar on Tuesday. As per official reports, one tourist identified as 55-year-old C M Babu, a resident of Kerala, state

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Aao School Chalein Hum...

Over 13,000 schools to resume academics today after 90 days of winter vacation

New school timing within Srinagar limits notified from 9Am to 2Pm

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 28: More than 13,000 private and government schools of Kashmir valley and winter zones of Jammu division are all set to resume academics on Wednesday following a three month long winter vacation. According to the news agency—the School Education Department on November-25 announced closure of schools for winter vacations in a phased manner in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu division from December-01-2022 to February-28-2023. The vacations for primary level classes' upto 5th standard was observed from December-01 to February-28 while for the 6th



to 8th standard, the closure of schools for winter vacations was observed from December-12 to February-28. Likewise, in case of secondary and senior secondary level students, vacation was observed from December-19 to February-28. According to official figures, a total of 10,851 government and 2550 private schools are functioning in the Kashmir division. In the meantime, the School Education Department Tuesday changed school timing in Srinagar city from 9Am to 2 Pm.

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Indian Army sets up the first of its kind CRS in world's second coldest place Drass

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 28 (UNI) Indian Army's Dras Warrior Brigade on Tuesday set up the first of its kind Community Radio Station in the world's second coldest inhabited place, officials said. It is an epic moment for the people of Dras as today, Radio Dras (90.4 MHz) goes 'On Air', a defence statement said. Government of India has approved an Indian Army initiative for establishing a Community Radio Station (CRS) at Army Goodwill School Dras to address local issues for the benefit of the community at large. The CRS has become a lifeline for the people in far flung and remote border areas due to limited presence of mainstream media.

Radio Dras would endeavour to reach out to all community members with an aim to provide updates and information related to various relevant issues. This would include various government schemes, agriculture and rural development, education, youth and women empowerment, career prospects, cultural promotion and other issues relevant to people of Dras. Community Radio Station aims towards development of local communities for improving their quality of life & addressing issues of local concern. It will strengthen the radio sector, create capacity building and

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Police arrests 02 gamblers in Baramulla; stake money seized

HT NEWS NETWORK

Baramulla February 28): Acting tough against social crimes, Police in Baramulla have arrested 02 gamblers and seized stake money from their possession. A Police party of Police Station Sheeri during patrolling in village Heewan found 04 persons busy with gambling activities in orchards near under construction Hospital Building Heewan. On noticing the police party, gamblers tried to flee from the spot who were chased by the police party and 02 persons were arrested on spot. However, 02 among them managed to flee and efforts are on to nab the absconding gamblers. The arrested gamblers have been identified as Suhail Ahmad Sofi son of Mohd Ayaz & Bashir Ahmad Rather son of Mohd Abdullah both residents of Heewan Baramulla. Officers have also seized stake money of ₹3850/- and playing cards from the gamblers. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sheeri and further investigation has been initiated.

School Edu Deptt to distribute free sanitary napkins among female students

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 28: School Education Department has decided to distribute sanitary napkins in government educational institutes among all female students of 8th to 12th standard. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), OSD with Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said this in a communique to Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region regarding promotion and awareness of menstrual hygiene. The officer said that the Government of India, having recognized the importance of menstrual hygiene to the health, well-being and educational achievements of girls and women has been implementing schemes and programmes to improve menstrual hygiene management. It has also said that it will disseminate knowledge, access and disposal of menstrual waste and sanitation in schools. "The Department has launched a new scheme for promotion and awareness of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in schools," the official said.

Preliminary census suggests over 50K migratory birds in famous Wular Lake

HT NEWS NETWORK

Bandipora, Feb 28 A preliminary census by Wular Lake Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WCMA) in Asia's largest fresh

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Srinagar to get Japanese Cherry Blossom Theme Garden Floriculture Department discusses modalities with SAKURA

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28: The summer capital 'Srinagar' would soon have a splendid Cherry Theme Garden on the pattern of Japanese Sakura with all the modalities being finalised in this regard. This was revealed during a virtual meeting of officers of Floriculture Department with the Japanese authorities and Union Ministry of External Affairs. Professor A K Chawla Advisor (Japan) East Asia Division MEA mediated the meeting. The meeting had elaborate



deliberation on various issues regarding the project like procurement of planting material from Japan and technical guidance. "Cherry Theme Garden' is a Rs 10 crore project, an extension plan for Tulip Garden,

Srinagar to make it more attractive and magnificent for the visitors. The project is being facilitated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. While highlighting broad contours of the project,

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Deputy Commissioner Rajouri launches awareness campaign to promote Self Employment Schemes

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 28: Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, launched an awareness campaign to promote the various schemes implemented by the Employment Department under Mission Youth.

The event was attended by the Deputy Director Employment, Qadeer Ul Rehman, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria, District Statistical and Evaluation Officer, Sandeep Sharma, and all the staff of the Employment Department.

The goal of this initiative is to inform the people of Rajouri about the different schemes offered by Mission Youth, which will provide the youth of the district with employment and self-employment opportunities. The awareness campaign will



span all 19 blocks of the district and will last for a week.

The nodal officer of Mission Youth, Deputy Director Employment, has instructed all staff to ensure the success of the awareness campaign. The week-long schedule will cover various areas of the district, and the team will engage with the people to

campaign will help the people to understand the various schemes and take advantage of the benefits provided by the government.

"Our aim is to reach out to every corner of the district and make the people aware of the schemes. We hope that the people will take advantage of these schemes and improve their lives," reiterated the Deputy Commissioner.

The district administration is encouraging the people of Rajouri to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the awareness campaign. This initiative will help the youth of the district to find employment and self-employment opportunities, which will ultimately contribute to the overall growth and development of the district.

Awareness programme for parents on Drug Abuse organized in District Samba

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28: Social Welfare department Samba, in collaboration with the health department, today organized an awareness-cum-counselling session for parents on Narcotics & Drug abuse here at district Conference Hall Samba.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta - the Chief Guest along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Benam Tosh and other officers inaugurated the programme attended by parents, teachers, students and locals.

The Deputy Commissioner, while outlining the objectives of the event, underlined the need to protect the children from falling into clutches of drugs. She said that sensitization of parents is of utmost importance for strategizing



the eradication of drug abuse completely in the district. She called upon all stakeholders to put in collective effort to wipe out the malaise of narcotics and drug abuse. "District Administration has taken many steps like launching a sustained IEC campaign, heightening of vigil on drug peddlers, installation of drug peddler boxes in schools, colleges etc, CCTV monitoring of chemist shops.

"However with parents' support we can achieve a 100% drug free district" added DC Samba.

The participants also pledged to counter the drug menace with vigorous awareness drives against drug peddlers across the district with the help of youth.

Dr. Vinod Dhar, key speaker, delivered a thought provoking lecture. He said drug abuse starts among youth with

smoking, drinking alcohol and later turns into other forms of drug dependency. He further added that Parents must keep watch on the gestures, school performance, friend circle and ant behavioural change among children as these are early signs of addiction. The early detection the better it is to address the drug abuse issue, added the guest speaker.

Additional SP Surinder Choudhary, CMO Dr Vidhi Bathial, DIO Ajay Sharma, DSWO Deep Kumar, besides other officers and officials were also present. The participants also pledged to counter the drug menace with vigorous awareness drives against drug peddlers across the district with the help of youth.

Dr. Vinod Dhar, key speaker, delivered a thought provoking

Reasi: 15 Day Bamboo Ornaments making training concludes at Bamboo rich Chhapanoo village

REASI, FEBRUARY 28: A 15 day Skill Development training in Bamboo Ornaments making craft organised by District Administration Reasi under SANKALP scheme concluded successfully in village Chhapanoo here today.

The training was organised by Assistant Director, Handicrafts Reasi and Member Skill Development Committee Reasi involving 25 trainees of the village.

The training was imparted to the participants by renowned Bamboo Craft designer Neera Sarmah and her team of expert master artisans. The trainers stayed in the village for the entire duration of the training and trained villagers in the diligent craft of Bamboo Jewellery making and acquainted them about



the economic potential waiting to be tapped in the Bamboo rich village of Chhapanoo.

The valedictory event was attended by elated trainees in presence of Panchayat members and the staff of Assistant Director Handicrafts Reasi.

At the closing valedictory ceremony, the master trainer reiterated how the Bamboo Jewellery craft means earning one lakh from one humble bamboo shaft. The sarpanch and the PRI members also graced the occasion and were fascinated by the display of Bamboo Jewellery products made by the Artisans. The Panchayat committee felicitated the visiting trainers and thanked District Administration Reasi for considering the Panchayat for conducting yet another Bamboo related training in the village.

DC Srinagar conducts extensive tour of interior Hamlets in Dal Lake area

SRINAGAR FEBRUARY 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday undertook an extensive tour of various interior areas in Dal Lake to take onsite assessment of the measures taken up to further improve the socio-economic conditions of the farmers of different hamlets in Dal Lake through promotion of FPOs.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner visited Akhoo Mohalla, Kachri Mohalla and other adjacent hamlets in the area and took on spot assessment of cultivation of Lotus Stem (Nadru).

The DC inspected the measures adopted by Lotus Stem (Nadru) farmers for harvesting Nadru produce from Dal Lake and was informed that Lotus Stem is cultivated in an area of 99.50 Hectares in the Dal Lake with a total yearly production of 450-500 metric tonnes.

The Deputy Commissioner also held an interaction with the members of recently formed Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), "Dal Lake Lotus Stem Producer Company Limited" promoted under the Central Sector Scheme of NABARD in Srinagar District which is involved in growing Agriculture crops, Market gardening, Horticulture produce etc.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that there are around 250 Farmers (Shareholders) including over 100 females in the FPO and it is working on branding of different value added products like Vacuum dried Lotus stem besides fresh Exotic vegetables. The FPO has been able to export 02 consignments of their produce to the UAE with the support of the Department of Agriculture.

During the visit, Farmers projected various issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner including setting up of marketing outlets at prominent places for Ag-



riculture produce, establishment of drying units, support for the beekeepers, providing carrier vehicles for home delivery of Agriculture products and support under KCC scheme.

After listening patiently to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the FPO members that all the possible support shall be provided by the District Administration including providing marketing outlets at important locations in Srinagar. He further assured the farmers that 100 beekeeping Units will be established in the area to generate employment avenues for local youth and diversify their income. Besides, high tech poly greenhouses will be provided to the farmers.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the support to the FPO for establishing the drying units and provide them the vehicles under Mumkin Scheme.

The DC said that a focused attention is being given for upliftment of the socio-economic sector to generate employment opportunities for the local people. He said under this programme, the on-going schemes of the Government may also be converged to enhance the cost effectiveness of FPOs and create valu-

able infrastructure in the sector.

He directed the concerned Departments to sensitize farmers about the advantage of FPO for taking maximum benefits from their crops by selling their produce in an organized and profitable way.

The DC explained that the FPO is an institutional mechanism to reduce cost of production, increase per unit production and facilitate better market linkage so as to enhance the income of farmers. He further said that by the formation of FPOs an end to end solution of the problems confronted by the farmers is being provided and farmers are free to manage their affairs from the production level to post harvest and marketing of their branded products thereby eliminating the clutches of the middle man and doubling farmer's income.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Chief Agriculture Officer, Mohammad Yonis Chowdhary, District Mineral Officer, DDM NABARD, Area Marketing Manager, Executive Engineer LCMA and Lead District Manager, besides members Cluster Based Business Organization (CBBO) and other concerned.

Sarita Chauhan tours Samba under MTMP 2.0; Assess saturation of deliverables under self employment schemes

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28: Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, today toured Samba, in connection with her follow up visit under My Town My Pride 2.0 as Prabhari Officer, to assess status of saturation of deliverables under self employment schemes.

President MC Samba alongwith Councillors, district officers and departments dealing with self employment schemes besides others were present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary laid stress on saturation of self employment schemes in the Municipal Council Samba. She had a detailed discussion regarding department wise number of cases sponsored and sanctioned



besides deliberating on scope for sanction of more cases. She exhorted upon the Councillors to disseminate the information in their areas so that more people are brought under the ambit of self employment schemes.

In MC Samba, 71 persons have been benefitted under different schemes of Mission Youth, DIC, KVIB and NULM involving a loan amount of Rs. 108.73 lakh with Rs 13.52 lakh as subsidy.

Commissioner Secretary asked the banks to minimize the time for disbursement of sanctioned/ sponsored cases. She also directed for holding special camps in MC Samba with participation of concerned departments, EOs, members of Council, banks in coordination with district administration to create awareness regarding self employment assistance under various schemes.

The departments dealing with self employment schemes like KVIB, DIC, NULM, Handloom/ Handicrafts, Employment explained in detail the guidelines of the schemes, eligibility criteria and quantum of financial assistance that can be availed.

Bipul Pathak visits Badhori Panchayat; Reviews development projects

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28: Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), Bipul Pathak, today visited Badhori Panchayat of Bari Brahamana block as Prabhari Officer.

Block Development Council Chairman Bari Brahamana, Additional District Development Commissioner, Samba,

Sarpanch, BDO among other officers and PRI members were present on the occasion.

DG IMPARD had a detailed review of development programmes being executed in the panchayat. He took stock of grievances and demands of people of the area besides seeking follow up on several deliverables of fourth phase of 'Back to Village' programme.

Bipul Pathak emphasised on saturation of deliverables under Self Employment in panchayat through various government sponsored schemes. He also laid focus on ensuring enhanced basic amenities like Electricity, Tap Water Connections, Education, Roads, Health, and others. He stressed on responsiveness and coordination of line department officials

with the PRI representatives for overall development of the panchayat.

DG also had discussion on saturation of all deliverables under "Swachh Gram Programme, Jan Bhagidari, Land Passbooks, Golden Cards, completion of pending inheritance mutations, distribution of e-Shram cards, 100% Aadhar Seeding/ Penetration, rejuvenating self-employment.

SKICC officials given warm send off on superannuation

Srinagar February 28 The chef Abdul salaam and SRashpal Manager Finance superannuated today and we're given warm send off by the SKICC colleagues.

Abdul salaam an expert continental chef had a privilege to serve important globally famed delegates and VVIPs who have experienced the MICE services of skicc and Rashpal ji while serving in the finance section of SKICC contributed well in his field.

Director SKICC while wishing them best of the life ahead praised their capacities of head and heart and stressed the skicc Human Resource to carry their legacy forward.

Bakhshi Humayun Javed also termed the SKICC Human Resource as best among the rest in the UT in all respects, he also mentioned about the contributions of all previous employees who have given their best to establish SKICC as one of

the best Conference centre in the country.

Shahnawaz A Shah Manager Marketing mentioned about the best professional atmosphere of the SKICC and credited the superannuated officials and incumbent team for their work in this regard. Qazi Aftab presented vote of thanx before the Director garlanded Ab Salaam and Rashpal ji with traditional shawl. Later the retiree's were taken to their home in a cavalcade by their col-

leagues. Bakhshi Humayun Javed also termed the SKICC Human Resource as best among the rest in the UT in all respects, he also mentioned about the contributions of all previous employees who have given their best to establish SKICC as one of the best Conference centre in the country.

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Public Notice

I Have lost RC of my vehicle M/Cycle Registration No JK05K1856 somewhere at home. Now I have Applied for its Duplicate. If any body have any objection he may contact ARTO Office Baramulla within the period of 07 days. After That No objection will be entertained.

Name Ab Rasheed Rather
S/O:-Ab Ahad Rather
R/O:-Tilagam Baramulla

Public Notice

My Name in School Records has been wrongly entered as Abdul Mueed Batchoo S/O Shabir Ahmad Buchoo instead of actual New name: Abu Baqar S/o Shabir Ahmed Batchoo. Now I intend to make necessary correction accordingly in my School Records. If any person having objection to it may please fill his/ her objection before the Principal Dabui Grand School International Srinagar within a period of seven days of publication of this notice falling which no any objection shall be entertained.

Name..Abu Baqar Buchoo
F/o...Shabir Ahmad Buchoo
M/Name..Suhila Jan
R/O... GalibAbad Salteng HMT Srinagar

Public Notice

I Abdul Rashid Kabli S/O, Sanaullah Kabli R/O No. 168 Sector No. 168, Nursing Colony Sanat Nagar RawalPora original allottee/transferee of Plot 168 Housing Colony and have applied for transfer of leasehold rights to freehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Abdul Rashid Kabli S/O, Sanaullah Kabli R/O No. 168 Sector No. 168, Nursing Colony Sanat Nagar RawalPora

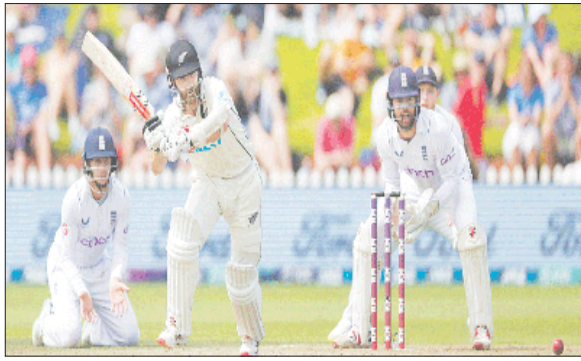
Public Notice

I have lost Number Plate of my motor cycle bearing registration no JK05D 2464. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She may contact ARTO Sopore within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

AJAZ AHMAD KHAN
S//O MOHD MAQBOOL KHAN
R/O DOLIPORA KREERI

NZ set England 258 to win series after record-breaker Williamson's century

WELLINGTON: Record-breaker Kane Williamson stroked a superb century on Monday to steer New Zealand to 483 all out in their second innings and set England a target of 258 runs to win the second Test here at the Basin Reserve. Former captain Williamson hit 132 and Tom Blundell was last man out for 90 as the hosts fought back after being asked to follow on. England were 48-1 in their second innings at stumps after opener Zak Crawley,



go about it and it's a case of us sticking to that process. We're confident." New Zealand need nine

wickets to pull off only the fourth victory by a side following on in the history of Test cricket and square

the two-match series. "It would be pretty special," Williamson said of New Zealand's historic bid. "It's pretty exciting going into day five and we want to make sure our bowling is on. There's all to play for." The hosts resumed their second innings on Monday at 202-3, still trailing by 24, but Williamson led the charge with his 26th Test century. It fell to England's new batting star and part-time seam bowler Harry Brook to claim Williamson's prized wicket. After grinding down England's bowlers, Williamson was finally caught down the leg side by wicket-keeper Ben Foakes off a fine edge after a sixth-wicket partnership of 158 with Blundell. Williamson trudged off to hearty applause from the Wellington crowd after dragging New Zealand back into the match. It was his second standing ovation of the day, having eclipsed Ross Taylor in the morning session to become New Zealand's most prolific Test batsman with 7,787 runs.

Shastri wants Gill to see him get a hit in Indore Test

Indore, Feb 28 (UNI) Ravi Shastri wants to see Shubman Gill given another chance during the remaining Border-Gavaskar Tests against Australia. Despite some impressive recent form against both the red-ball and in the limited overs arena, Gill has been overlooked for the opening two Tests against Australia as selectors have opted for more experienced options at the top of India's batting order. Gill hit his maiden Test century against Bangladesh in December and has put his name at the forefront of selectors' minds with four white-ball centuries for his country - including a magnificent 208 in an ODI against New Zealand last month - already this year. Shastri was speaking with host Sanjana Ganesan on the most recent episode of The ICC Review and the former national coach believes the time is right for Gill to be parachuted back into India's XI and be given another opportunity to show his wares. "He (Gill) is that good at the moment and whether he scores or doesn't score, on form, on merit, he deserves a chance," Shastri said.

Automatic qualifiers for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 confirmed

Dubai, Feb 28 (UNI) The automatic qualifiers for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 have been identified after the end of the eighth edition of the tournament that saw Australia win their sixth title. Eight teams earn direct qualification while remaining two spots to be identified through a Global Qualifier. As per the qualification process, the top three teams from each group earn direct qualification along with the hosts and the highest ranked team outside of the six direct qualifiers from the 10-team tournament. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are the teams to earn direct qualification as the top three teams of Group 1 in the league stage while England, India and the West Indies similarly make it from Group 2. Bangladesh qualify as hosts of the ninth edition of the tournament while Pakistan make it by virtue of being the next highest ranked team in the ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings as of February 27, 2023.

India U-17s determined to dish out better fare against Qatar

New Delhi, Feb 28 (UNI) The India U-17 Men's National Team will take on their Qatar counterparts in the second friendly match at the Aspire Academy in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday. The Blue Colts will be looking to make a comeback in their second game after they suffered a 1-3 defeat at the hands of the same rivals on Saturday. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes sounded upbeat on the eve of the game. "The mood in the camp is great. Yes, we faced defeat in the first game, but the boys are determined to get back in the second match and get a positive result against Qatar. This is the kind of determination one always looks for in the players, and I hope that we can erase our mistakes from the last game and move on," said Fernandes.

Starc still feels discomfort in finger but eyes return for third Test

SYDNEY: Australian paceman Mitchell Starc said he still feels some discomfort in his finger after snapping a tendon in a fielding mishap in December but he expects to return to the side for the third Test against India beginning on Wednesday at Indore. The left-armers suffered the injury to the middle finger of his bowling hand and was sidelined as Australia lost the opening two Tests of the four-match series against India. With skipper Pat Cummins and batter David Warner ruled out of the contest, the tourists are likely to welcome back Starc and all-rounder Cameron Green. "There's going to be a level of discomfort for a while, I don't think it is going to be 100% for a fair while," Starc said on Monday. "But it's certainly good enough. The ball's coming out quite nicely and I feel I'm pretty much at full tilt. "It wouldn't be the first Test match I've played in some sort of discomfort. If I only played when I was at 100% I would have only played five or 10 Tests. "I'm happy with where it's at and I've got enough of a pain threshold to deal with that stuff over the last 10 or 12 years." Cummins has returned home to be with his ailing mother, leaving Steve Smith, who captained Australia between 2015 and 2018, to lead the side in his absence. Starc felt the quicks still had a big role to play in the series, which has so far favoured



the spinners. "It's been a challenge in the last couple of weeks, the first two Tests," he said. "We do see spin playing a huge part in this Test series but the quicks have still played a particular role, whether it be with the new ball, if it does reverse-swing, and being able to bowl that skiddy ball and bring the stumps into play. "So there's certainly an important role to play for the seam bowlers." "It wouldn't be the first Test match I've played in some sort of discomfort. If I only played when I was at 100% I would have only played five or 10 Tests. "I'm happy with where it's at and I've got enough of a pain threshold to deal with that stuff over the last 10 or 12 years."

Messi recognized as best football player of 2022: FIFA

Switzerland, Feb 28 (UNI) Lionel Messi, who plays as a forward for Paris Saint-Germain Football Club and for Argentina's national football team, has been honored with the best player of 2022 award by the FIFA. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2022 ceremony was held in Paris on Monday. Kylian Mbappe from the French national team, who also plays for Paris Saint-Germain as a forward, and Karim Benzema, who plays for Real Madrid, were nominated for the award alongside with Messi. Messi won the World Cup in Qatar in December 2022 for the first time in his career and was chosen the best player of the championship. In the final match Argentina bested France in a series of penalty. Mbappe scored a hat trick in the game. Having successfully scored 8 times during the championship, he became the best player of the World Cup 2022. Benzema missed the World Cup because of a trauma and announced his withdrawal from the national team in December. As a Real Madrid player he won Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish national Championship in 2022. In October, he won the Golden Ball for the first time in his career. Alexia Putellas was recognized as the Best FIFA Women's Player for the second year in a row. She plays for Barcelona and won



her second Golden Ball in 2022. Messi won the World Cup in Qatar in December 2022 for the first time in his career and was chosen the best player of the championship. In the final match Argentina bested France in a series of penalty. Mbappe scored a hat trick in the game. Having successfully scored 8 times during the championship, he became the best player of the World Cup 2022. Benzema missed the World Cup because of a trauma and announced his withdrawal from the national team in December. As a Real Madrid player he won Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish national Championship in 2022. In October, he won the Golden Ball for the first time in his career.

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