

Kichloo resolves Poonch Eidgah issue

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the Minister of State for Home Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo conducted tour of the district Poonch in order to sort-out long pending issue regarding acute shortage of space in of Eidgah.

It was decided that the land adjoining to Eidgah, which belongs to Fire & Emergency Services, will be given to Eidgah and Fire Station Poonch will be re-located within Poonch town. About 4 kanals of Government land has already been identified for Fire Station Poonch.

The Minister was accompanied by the MLA Poonch Aijaz Ahmad Jan, DGP Fire and Emergency Services Dr. G.A. Bhatt, District Development Commissioner Poonch Sajjad Ahmad, SSP Poonch, Choudhary Shamsheer, representatives of Aqaf and concerned officers of the district administration.

The Minister also inspected the new spot identified for Fire Station and directed district administration to submit a proposal to allot 4 kanal of land

under occupation of Horticultural Department to establish F&ES Station within Poonch town.

Latter, Mr. Kichloo took stock of the pace of work on various ongoing development works in the district. The meeting also reviewed security arrangements for the Buddha Amarnathji Yatra, which is commencing shortly. The Minister directed the SSP Poonch to make fool proof security arrangements to ensure safety and security of the pilgrims. The Minister directed the officers of CA&PD to ensure adequate supply of ration and other essential commodities to the people during the Yatra period.

Mr. Kichloo also visited Dashnami Akhara Mandir Complex Poonch and reviewed Yatra arrangements with officers and Budha Amarnathji Yatra Management Committee to ensure foolproof arrangements.

He said that Government is committed to provide all the basic facilities to the people of the State, adding that no stone will be left unturned to redress their genuine grievances.

Anganwadi center seized following toxic pulses

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, July 31: Panic gripped villages of Nowgam, Kothiyar and Shangas in district Gulgam after some pulses supplied to Anganwadi centers by the Social Welfare Department spread allergy to the persons who touched it.

Javaid Ahmad Lone of Kothiar said on Tuesday they received some 35 kilograms of (Desi Channa) pulses from other center of Bonamohallah, which was supplied by the department for children at their Anganwadi center.

Lone said that some red rashes appeared on the back skin of the man who carried it to the centre.

"When my other family members touched the same pulses their skin also turned red and some type of allergy appeared on their skin. Whosoever touched the pulses, allergy appeared on their skin," Lone said.

"We informed the village head first and then complained before concerned department. But there was no response from the department. We called police and concerned Tehsildar."

Lone said Block Medical Officer also visited the area and collected the samples for testing. "Injections were supplied to the persons affected by this supply," Lone said.

Fearing a Bihar like tragedy, where 23 children died after consuming pesticide-laced meals, police reached to the spot and seized the adulterated pulses and sealed the Anganwadi center, Lone said.

Eyewitnesses said that the Social Welfare Department officials later visited the spot and showed their displeasure for blowing the issue without their consent.

"The supervisors came here and told us that why have you called other departments, it was our concern and we would have solved it at our own," they said.

Suggestions on new Jammu Master Plan listed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Railway Station Hotels and Lodges Association has listed several suggestions for giving proper direction to achieve a broader goal with respect to the new Master Plan for Jammu.

In a letter forwarded to the Minister for Urban Development Nawang Rigzin Zora, the Association president Bhuvneshwar Gandotra has stressed development of new colonies with reasonable commercial markets on war footing as only Kot Bhalwal and Birpur colonies are not going to solve the acute housing problem.

Mr Gandotra also suggested that all commercial establishments that have come up over years in both developed and undeveloped colonies of Jammu by the Housing Department should be regularized with a cutoff date. This shall

remove the sword of uncertainty on concerned public and also eliminate the fear of loosing business besides tackling the menace of unemployment and reduce unnecessary litigations.

Stating that permission should be granted for basement in the residential houses for parking purpose, the Association president also suggested vertical housing structures should be encouraged instead of traditional ones by increasing the maximum ceiling height.

Besides, the letter further says, all the lodges that have come up in the developed colonies of Housing Department having requisite and valid license from Tourism Department, should be given requisite NOCs and permission.

The Minister has also been urged to expedite the publication of new Master Plan on public domain for seeking more suggestions from general public.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 16 animals rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Continuing its drive against bovine smuggling, Udhampur Police today rescued 16 animals in two separate places falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Rehmbal.

Eight bovine were rescued when a Police party laid a surprise naka near Tikri chowk in the wee hours of today. They intercepted a Bolero pick up half body vehicle bearing Registration number JK02AX-8655. Noticing the surprise naka party, the smugglers

fled away from the spot leaving behind the vehicle loaded with the bovine animals, which were rescued.

Similarly, Police party laid a surprise naka near Rehmbal this morning and intercepted one vehicle Mahindra, bearing Registration number JK14C-7992. The smugglers fled away from the spot leaving behind the vehicle loaded with 8 bovine animals. Police seized the vehicle and rescued the animals.

Police have registered cases in this regard besides launching hunt to nab the absconding smugglers.

Petition challenging Civil Services Recruitment Act

HC issues notice to CS, others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: In a petition filed by ALC Unemployed Union through its President Parvaiz Ahmed and others challenging the Sub Section of Section 13 of J&K Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment Act 2010, High Court today issued notice to Chief Secretary and others.

In the petition, it has been submitted that Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment Act was illegal, arbitrary and violative of Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. The petitioners have been seeking direction to the respondents to provide similar opportunity and privilege to members of the various communities and castes of ALC category as have been provided to members of the Scheduled Caste Category in terms of the Act.

They have also challenged the advertisement notice dated November 12, 2010 issued by J&K Service Selection Board to

the extent it intends to make selection to 585 and further recruitment process posts in accordance with impugned provisions of the J&K Civil Services Decentralization & Recruitment Act, 2010.

The petitioners have further sought directions to the respondents to direct all the selection agencies and departments to refrain from making any selection to any of the vacancies in accordance with the impugned provisions of J&K Civil Services Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010.

After hearing Advocate M R Qureshi with Advocate ZA Mughal appearing for the petitioners, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat issued notice to Chief Secretary, Law Secretary, Commissioner Secretary GAD, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department and Chairman SSRB returnable within three weeks. The High Court also directed the registry to list this petition after three weeks.



Former MP Janak Raj Gupta, Vipin Nischal and officers of SmartNet Services launching 'Smart Power' at Jammu on Wednesday.

SmartNet Services launches 'Smart Power'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: SmartNet Services launched their electrical load reduction device "Smart Power", here today.

On the occasion, former Member Parliament (MP) Janak Raj Gupta was the chief guest, who launched the device in presence of Vipin Nischal, Jammu Chief Congress Seva Dal and officials of SmartNet Services.

Managing Director (MD) of SmartNet Services, Vikas Thamman said this device will help people in getting the electrical running load reduced from 20 per cent to 40 per cent. This

Statistical employees meet Chief Secretary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: A delegation of J&K Non Gazetted Statistical Employees Association (JKNGSEA) led by its president, PS Jamwal along with Executive Members met Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey and had a detailed discussion concerning their demands.

The delegation apprised the Chief Secretary about various issues confronted by Planning or Statistical personnel. A memorandum of demands was also presented to the Chief Secretary.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the issues of pay anomaly faced by the Statistical Assistants and Junior Statistical Assistants in the erstwhile grades of 5000-8000 and 4000-6000 respectively.

The Chief Secretary in response assured the delegation that the matter will be looked into and resolved as soon as possible.

Poppy straw recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Police arrested two peddlers and recovered about five kilograms of illicit poppy straw while they were transporting in auto load carrier at Konibal.

A police spokesperson said that during a naka checking at Konibal Road, Awantipora police intercepted an Auto load carrier bearing registration number JK13B 1088. During the checking of the auto load carrier about five kilograms of illicit poppy straw was recovered.

Two persons Nazir Ahmad Baigal son of Ghulam Mohammad and Mohammad Rafiq Wango son of Abdul Samad of Bemina, Srinagar boarding the load carrier were also arrested. A case FIR number 87/2013 under Section 15 NDPS Act has been registered in this regard.

5 structures damaged in fire

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Fire broke out during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday in Arigam, Budgam, in which two residential houses belonging to Mohammad Yousuf Bhat son of Abdul Samad, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Yousuf, Farooq Ahmad Bhat son of Samad Bhat and Abdul Rashid Bhat son of Ali Mohammad got damaged.

However, no loss of life or injury was reported in this incident. Cause of fire is being ascertained.

Fire broke out in the cowshed of Ali Mohammad Wani son of Ghulam Mohammad resident of Lalpora, Budgam, which engulfed another residential

house of Fayaz Ahmad Mir son of Qadir Mir of Lalpora, resulting in damage to the structures. However, no loss of life or injury was reported in this incident. Cause of fire is being ascertained.

Meanwhile, fire broke out in the cowshed of Abdul Rashid Najar of Nowgam, Shopian, resulting in damage to the cowshed. However no loss of life or injury was reported in this incident. Cause of fire is accidental.

In another incident, fire broke out in dumped fire wood which was kept outside by Zahid Ahmad Sofi son of Haji Ghulam Mohammad of Hyderpora at General Bus Stand, Batamalo, Srinagar, near Meerak Shah Stand. However no loss of life or injury was reported in this incident. Cause of fire is accidental.

7 injured in road mishaps

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Seven persons were injured in different road accidents across the Kashmir valley.

A police spokesperson said that a Tata 407 Passenger vehicle JK03 4782 skidded off the road near Brad, Anantnag, resulting in injuries to six persons. All the injured were shifted to hospital for treatment. A case has been registered in this regard.

PNB conducts KCC mela

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: In continuation of its pursuit to enhance agricultural credit, Punjab National Bank conducted a Kisan Credit Card (KCC) mela at Aghore, here today. The mela was inaugurated by RVS Jasrotia, Chief Manager, Circle Office Jammu.

More than 90 KCCs were distributed to the farmers involving a credit outlay of Rs 52 lakh in the function. The function was organized in coordination with Agriculture Department in which farmers of various villages including Aghore, Mathwar, Sarote, Mawa Sarote participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said, "KCC scheme will be beneficial to the farmers for boosting their agriculture activities and help them in meeting timely short term credit requirements for culti-

vatation of crops, post harvest expenses and profitable marketing of their produce."

Jasrotia urged the farmers to utilize the credit judiciously and repay the loan within the tenure for the success of the scheme. Exhorting youth to take advantage of various banking products for their self employment and form Farmers Clubs in the villages, he asked the women folk present in the gathering to form Self Help Groups for income generating activities and sustaining their families.

S S Chib, District Coordinator PNB, Ramesh Kohli, Manager PNB Aghore, Manoj Kumar and Rakesh Bhagat, Manager Agriculture of Bank, staff members, Sarpanch, Panchayat Mathwar, Ram Pal Sharma and large number of beneficiaries were present at the function.



SBI officials inaugurating bank branch at Kathua on Wednesday.

SBI inaugurates branch at Kalibari

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 31: State Bank of India (SBI) today inaugurated its 161st branch at Kalibari, here today in presence of large number of customers.

The branch was inaugurated by Neeraj Vyas, GM, NW-III Chandigarh Circle and Jitendra K Singh, Deputy Commissioner.

Speaking on the occasion, Neeraj Vyas highlighted various facilities being offered by the branch to its customers including ATM, internet banking, green channel counters, mobile banking, etc.

He also said that each and every type of banking facility can

be availed at the branch. He also guided the branch manager to stress more on alternate channel facilities for the customers.

Jitendra K Singh asked the bank to provide banking facilities to the general public, specially to the weaker sections of the society including Government sponsored schemes.

AK Jain, DGM, J&K Module and CJ Tiku, AGM, RBO-III, Jammu, SK Kapoor AGM, Mohinder Kumar, Director SBI R-SETI, RK Kalsotra, Lead Bank Kathua, CM Bhat, branch manager, Sham Lal Sharma, Parul Sharma, Sohan Lal Sharma, Vidhya Sagar and Mohan Lal Sharma were also present.

5 gamblers arrested by Akhnoor police

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Akhnoor police today arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 1400 bet money from their possession.

A police spokesman said that, on specific inputs, police party from Akhnoor Police Station conducted raid and arrested five gamblers, who have been identified as Koda Ram, son of Sharif, Munish, son of Koda Ram, Venzamin, son of William, Yousaf, son of Sardar and Kenni, son of Kiahori, all residents of Kashmiri Mohalla, Ward number 1, Akhnoor.

"Rs 1400 bet money and play cards were also recovered from their possession", he added.

A case under 13 Gambling Act has been registered at Akhnoor Police Station and investigation started.

Police party led by SHO Mahesh Sharma made the arrest under the supervision of SDPO Akhnoor Rayees Mohammad Bhat.



Government Women's College, MA Road Srinagar students along with injured colleague during a protest against the authorities.

Students clash in Women's College, protest on streets

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Clashes erupted between two groups of students in Women's College at MA Road here in the afternoon after one group of girls attacked another and beat a girl to pulp.

Following the clashes, the group that was beaten up took to streets and raised slogans against the college administration for not taking any action against the girls despite being informed by them.

The spokesperson of the

college admitted that there was some argument between some girls. But, there was no clash, she said.

A college student, who wished not to be identified, said that the tension had been brewing up for past four months.

An official of the college, however, said that on Monday a heated argument took place between two girls in the college ground when a girl crossed the pitch during a cricket match.

"On Tuesday, the two girls again crossed the ground and resorted to heated arguments. The college administration took disciplinary action against the rival girls and informed their parents," he said.

Yesterday after the college closed, these girls had a fight near Shakti Sweets, and a girl was injured as the two girls had choked her by the neck.

"She complained to the college Principal who again informed their parents. Today, parents of both the girls came to the college and took their wards to their home," he said.

However, the situation turned worse when the two groups resorted to fighting again outside the college campus, he said.

DNWC highlights demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Durga Nagar Welfare Committee (DNWC) held a meeting under the chairmanship of its president Roshan Lal Raina.

While speaking, Raina demanded auto services, cleaning of lanes and drains and repairing of tube lights.

He urged the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to look into the matter, otherwise they will launch crusade.

Among others present were ML Pandita, general secretary, Mohan Lal, Nana Ji, Hira Lal, PL Sudeshi, Ram Krishan and PN Ganjoo.

Retiring officers accorded warm, touching send off

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Dr B D Sharma, Director, Health Services Jammu retired on attaining age of superannuation today. He was given warm send off and wished a happy and healthy life after retirement.

Dr Sham Gopal Gupta, Divisional Nutritive Officer, DHS Jammu also retired today from active Government services and was given a touching send off by the staff.

Anil Jain, Joint Director (SSA), Directorate of School Education Jammu who retired on attaining age of superannuation was accorded a warm send off by the staff of the Directorate and all wished him a happy and healthy post retirement life.

A warm farewell was accorded by the staff of Sheep Husbandry Department to Bharat Bhusan Kotwal, Flock Supervisor, who retired on superannuation today by the officers and staff who all wished him a good luck in life after retirement.

J&K Bank, branch Shalamar

Road Jammu, accorded a warm and touching send off to Susheel Mehta, senior executive, who attained superannuation today after putting in 37 years of services to the bank. All wished him a happy and healthy post retirement life.

Naib Tehsildar Nagri Parole, Kasturi Lal, who retired on attaining age of superannuation was accorded a warm send off at a function attended among others by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, other officers and Revenue Department. All wished him a happy and prosperous life after retirement.

Jammu University Non teaching Employees Union accorded a warm send off to Rita Sharma, Assistant Technical Officer and Banarsi Dass, Assistant Registrar (II) who retired after attaining age of superannuation today at a simple but impressive farewell function attended by all the office bearers of the Union. All wished the retiring employees and happy and healthy life after retirement.

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Postponement of Programme
 This is to inform, to all the respected invitees that the **Health and Education Awareness Programme** to be organised by Mahavir Society for Education and Research (Regd.) on 3 August, 2013 at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium (University of Jammu) has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.
 Now, the programme will be held on 3 September, 2013 at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium (University of Jammu)
Inconvenience is regretted.
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