

Atiq admitted having links with ISI, LeT

PRAYAGRAJ (UP), Apr 16: Gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad, who was shot dead along with his brother at point-blank range, had admitted during questioning by police that he had links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and militant outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba, according to an FIR.

Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were killed by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction on Saturday night while police

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Govt diverting focus from Malik's charges: Cong

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: The Congress today accused the Central Government of indulging in "headline manipulation" and diverting attention from former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik's allegations over the 2019 Pulwama attack.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged on Twitter that the "Modi machine" has quickly either suppressed the "revelations" or diverted attention from them by

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2 Traffic cops suspended

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: Traffic Police suspended today two of its personnel for allegedly indulging in unprofessional conduct while dispensing their duties.

"A video has been received from reliable sources in which a Traffic Police personnel posted in Traffic Rural Kashmir is allegedly seen to be indulging in an unprofessional conduct", read a statement issued by the police.

(In response to the video),

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Nandini wins Miss India World 2023

MUMBAI, Apr 16: Nandini Gupta of Rajasthan has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2023 and will represent the country at the Miss World contest.

Nandini, 19, who hails from Kota, was crowned the winner at the Grand Finale event on Saturday night in Imphal, Manipur

Delhi's Sherya Poonja was declared Femina Miss India 2023 - 1st Runner-up, and Manipur's Thounaojam Strela Luwang emerged as the 2nd

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Atiq's killing diversionary tactic: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti today alleged Atiq Ahmad and his brother's killing in Uttar Pradesh was a "clever diversionary tactic" to shift attention from the "revelations" made by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik about the Pulwama attack.

Malik, in an interview to a news portal, had claimed that there were lapses in security protocol that led to the February

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NOTICE

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 -Advt Manager

104 new COVID cases in J&K

JAMMU, Apr 16: A total of 104 fresh COVID-19 positive cases were reported today from Jammu and Kashmir, 45 from Jammu division and 59 from Kashmir valley.

The highest number of 29 cases was reported from Jammu district, followed by 13 each from Anantnag, Srinagar and Kupwara, 6 each from Udhampur and Budgam, 5 each from Kishtwar and Ganderbal, 4 from Bandipora, 3 from Baramulla, 2 each from Doda,

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Mission Youth to set up theatres in every district

Ladies Haat, Exclusive Women Markets will come up in Jammu, Sgr, other cities soon: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today announced that Ladies Haat and Exclusive Women Markets will shortly come up in Jammu, Srinagar and other major cities of the Union Territory as budgetary provision has been kept for them in current financial year's budget which was recently passed by the Parliament.

Addressing monthly 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' Radio Address this morning, Sinha referred to suggestions given by a woman that Jammu and Kashmir should have Exclusive Women Markets to give boost to women entrepreneurs.

He said Jammu and Kashmir's budget which was passed in the Parliament last month has provision for setting up of Ladies Haat and Exclusive Women Markets in Jammu, Srinagar and other major cities of the Union Territory.

"The Jammu and Kashmir will try to implement the provision on ground at the earliest,"

GI tag huge boost for local economy



LG Manoj Sinha addressing 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' on Sunday.

the Lieutenant Governor said. The budget proposed establishing Ladies Haat and Ladies Exclusive Markets at Jammu, Srinagar and other major towns. He referred to a suggestion for establishment of 100 sitting capacity theatres which can serve as commercial hubs for locals to promote local art and holding seminars by the youth.

"Well designed cinema halls have been opened at Shopian and Pulwama by the Mission Youth and district administration. I have direct-

ed the Chief Executive Officer Mission Youth for opening of such Halls in every district," Sinha said.

The cinema halls will have Virtual Reality Screen and will be constructed with New Theatre Technology with halls for art and festivals, he added.

An official handout said: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in this month's "Awaam Ki Awaaz" programme shared the inspiring stories of the change-makers and highlighted the efforts of the UT Government to realize the true growth potential of Jammu Kashmir.

He said the J&K administration with citizens' participation is steering the change in the socio-economic landscape of the Union Territory. "Our collective effort is to create a more progressive, growth-oriented and aspirational society and laying a strong foundation for journey of the next 25 years", he added.

"Kashmir division is witnessing 'Yellow Revolution' with oilseed crops registering

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Delay in counseling forces candidates to go to other States

Nursing, Paramedical Colleges in J&K at verge of closure as maximum seats remain vacant

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Apr 16: More than one hundred Nursing and Paramedical Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir are at the verge of closure because of almost negligible admissions for the last two academic sessions.

These colleges alleged that delayed counseling with lengthy procedure and 'un-necessary' criteria adopted by the Jammu Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) for the admission are responsible for the seats remaining vacant.

Worried over the non filling up of seats, the aggrieved colleges are seeking permission to

allow them conducting admissions on their own after completion of counseling by BOPEE, but there has been no response from the Government even as the next academic session is nearing to commence.

Pertinent to mention that there are around 150 Nursing and Paramedical Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir which offer Diploma and Degree in various Para-Medical courses. There are more than four thousand seats in the Degree courses and around 20 thousand in Diploma courses in these colleges. Most of these colleges are private and unaided, generating funds from the admissions to run the courses.

While the admissions in these colleges were earlier con-

ducted through J&K Paramedical and Nursing Council on the basis of academic merit, BOPEE was assigned this task after re-organization of J&K into two Union Territories and issuance of SRO 505 and 640 in this regard.

The crisis erupted with the introduction of new system of admissions for these courses through BOPEE, which conducts entrance test for the same, which is followed by the counseling. Unprecedented delay in counseling and failure of the candidates to qualify the entrance test are the reasons behind maximum seats in the Para-medical courses remaining vacant.

According to the official



Having its share of Nectar from a full grown flower. -Excelsior/Rakesh

LG announces ex gratia for kin of dead, wounded

Teenage boy killed, two injured as 1999 war shell explodes in Kargil

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: A 13-year-old boy was killed and two others injured when an unexploded shell went off in a remote village in Kargil district in the Union Territory of Ladakh this afternoon.

The three teen boys were playing near the Astro football ground at Kurbathang when they found an unexploded mortar shell, believed to be from the



A boy injured in blast being treated in Kargil hospital. - Excelsior/Basharat Ladakhi

1999 Kargil war, and started fiddling with it resulting in its explosion, the officials said.

They said Baqir (13) succumbed to injuries on the way to a hospital while Ali Naqi and Muntazir Mehdi of the same age were admitted to the hospital. Dead and the injured hailed from village Kharzon in Pashkum area of Kargil district.

Body of the dead teenage boy will be handed over to the family members after post-mortem. Injured are reportedly responding to the treatment.

Ladakh Lt Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra, who was in

Kargil, visited the injured boys in the hospital and assured the best treatment to them.

He also offered his condolences to the family of the deceased boy.

The LG Ladakh while talking to media persons announced Rs four lakh ex-gratia relief for the family of dead and Rs one lakh each for the injured.

Later he also visited the tragic incident place and also directed the concerned to sanitise the area in a limited time, so that no such incident occurs in future. He strictly instructed the concerned authority to monitor the spot till its complete sanitation.

Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil Feroz Khan also visited the spot to assess the situation.

Councillor Pashkum, Kacho Mohd Feroz told reporters that the boys were going to the

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Unite against divisive forces: Farooq to people

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: National Conference president and MP from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah today asked people to unite against the divisive forces, trying to disenfranchise them of their identity, land and resources.

This he said while addressing party functionaries in a commemorative function held at Khanabal, Anantnag on the 8th death anniversary of the party veteran Khawaja Abdul Gani Shah Veeri.

Joined in by party's senior functionaries, YNC and other local unit functionaries, he offered Fatiha for the veteran leader.

Exhorting the party functionaries, Dr Farooq said, "I see

no way of achieving anything in J&K without a lasting unity between different sections of our society. Unity in diversity must be our creed to last for all times and under all circumstances, otherwise there is no end in sight

social and cultural interests of the diverse sections of J&K's society from all regions and religions, he said adding, "They might try to foist more political parties on the people through clandestine and covert machina-



NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah addressing the gathering at Khanabal in Anantnag on Sunday.

to our common problems in the shape of poverty, unemployment."

"NC political vision is etched with the welfare of people and protecting the political,

tions to fragment our voice. We all should be cautious of such trojan horses meant to weaken us internally and to launch an assault on our resolve to fight

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Avalanche hits Zojila; 5 vehicles buried, 6 people rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: A major avalanche hit Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Minimarg area of Zojila this afternoon burying several vehicles. However, six persons trapped in these vehicles were rescued.



A view of avalanche near Zojila Pass. - Excelsior/Shakeel

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

An official said that an avalanche hit Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Shaitan Nalla in Minimarg area burying at least 5 vehicles.

He said that rescue teams were immediately rushed to the area and six people who were trapped in the vehicles that were

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RO NHAI J&K shifted, PS Shanker joining today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Regional Officer (RO), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), J&K Region, Rohin Kumar Gupta (GM-T) has been transferred to NHAI Headquarters, New Delhi while the new Regional Officer is joining Regional Headquarters, Jammu tomorrow.

Official sources said that P Siva Shanker, General Manager (Technical), presently posted as Project Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Visakhapatnam, has been transferred and posted as Regional Officer (RO), NHAI, Jammu and Kashmir. The new RO will join his new place of posting at Jammu tomorrow, the sources said.

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Kejriwal quizzed for 9 hours, AAP leaders protest

NEW DELHI, Apr 16:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was questioned for nearly nine hours by the CBI today in the excise policy case, amid protests by his party as the AAP chief claimed that the allegations of scam were false and the agency was acting at the BJP's behest.

"I was asked around 56 questions. I answered them all...As I said earlier we have nothing to hide. The alleged liquor scam is false, fabricated and motivated by dirty politics... We will die but not give up honesty," Kejriwal told reporters after leaving the CBI headquarters at around 8.30 pm.

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'Person approaching superior court must come with clean hands'

Weapon of contempt is not to be used in abundance: HC

*Rs 25,000 cost imposed on applicant for suppressing facts

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 16: High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has held that weapon of contempt is not to be used in abundance and a person approaching superior court must come with clean hands so that process of law doesn't get throttled.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal made these observations while dismissing a contempt petition and imposing Rs 25,000 cost on the applicant for suppressing the material facts and making conscious effort to mislead the court.

After several rounds of liti-

gations between the applicant Gull Mohammad Bhat and Government of J&K over the issue of land acquisition and compensation, the applicant filed an application under Article 215 of the Constitution of India read with Section 2 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for initiation of contempt proceedings against the respondents for allegedly causing obstruction in the administration of justice.

After hearing Advocate J H Reshi for the applicant and Senior Additional Advocate General Mohsin Qadri and others for the respondents, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal

observed, "the respondents have availed the legal remedies and have got the interim orders in their favour which continue to be operative as on date", adding "the applicant instead of contesting his right before the appropriate proceedings has chosen to file the present petition by way of camouflage with a view to apply pressure tactics and by seeking dismissal of the petition filed under Article 227 of the Constitution of India by respondents".

"The act of the respondents does not fall within the definition of civil contempt or

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Rains lash Kashmir, freak weather forecast till April 20

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: Weatherman has forecast light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches from April 17-20 with main activity on Monday and Tuesday.

"During this wet spell, thunderstorms with strong gusty wind reaching (20-30KMPH) and hail-storm is also possible at some places of Jammu and Kashmir," a Meteorological Department official here said.

He said there is possibility of temporary disruption of surface transportation especially over hilly and snowbound areas during April 17-18. Besides, he said, there could be water-logging in low lying areas, damage to orchards as well as "abrupt" fall in day temperature by 7-8°C.

Rains lashed Kashmir today and there has been snowfall in the higher reaches leading to drop in temperatures.

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA), in the meantime, issued an avalanche alert over higher reaches in four districts for next 24 hours.

The DMA said that a 'low' danger level avalanche is likely to occur above 3200 to 3500 metres above sea level over Doda, Kishtwar, Bandipora and Kupwara districts.

People living in these areas have been in the meantime advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Srinagar recorded a low of 10.9°C against 9.1°C the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for the city.

Qazigund recorded a low of 7.8°C against 6.2°C the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 5.2°C against 4.6°C the previous night and it was 3.4°C above normal for the famous tourist resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.6°C against 6.0°C the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.8°C against 7.0°C the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 10.2°C against 5.6°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 1.6°C and 6.1°C respectively, he said.

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