

National News

Quiet Eid in Kashmir, people offer prayers at local mosques amid tight security

Agency
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People in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday marked Eid al-Adha or Bakrid amid massive security scale-up and continuous communication blackout after its special status was revoked last week. People could be seen flocking to local mosques to offer prayers in small groups. Large groups of people were not allowed to assemble and traffic restrictions were also in place, reports ANI.

Senior state administrative and police officials — divisional commissioner Baseer Khan, inspector general of police Swayam Prakash Pani and Srinagar's district magistrate Shahid Choudhary — held a meeting with local clerics on Sunday to oversee prayer arrangements and ensure peaceful celebrations.

Choudhary had posted on Twitter on Sunday, saying he visited some of the mosques and grounds where prayers are being offered.

"I am conscious of the fact it needs a lot more for a normal and enjoyable Eid. We are trying to reduce inconveniences and ease facilities. Just had an elaborate meeting with Imaams for prayer arrangements. Visited venues (sic)," he tweeted along with photographs from the meeting.

The bureaucrat also said that more than 250 ATMs have been made functional in Srinagar and bank branches were also open.

Baseer Khan said the administration was doing everything to ensure a peaceful Eid.

Authorities had on Sunday eased the restrictions put in place before the Narendra Modi-led central government in some areas on Sunday to facilitate preparations for the festival, officials said.

"The situation in the state has remained normal so far. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere so far," said a tweet by the official handle of the J-K police on Sunday.

At least two reports said that security was stepped up in some parts of Srinagar on Sunday. Television news channel NDTV said police vehicles were seen making announcements asking people to return to their homes. News agency Reuters said its reporter saw a police van driving around one part of Srinagar announcing that restrictions had been imposed again after being relaxed earlier in the day.

There was, however, no official confirmation on the restrictions being reimposed in the city.

Authorities said that while there were reports of sporadic protests, no violence was reported anywhere in the

Valley.

"Everything is peaceful. The restrictions have eased and there has been a lot of improvement in public and transport movement," Choudhary said.

In Jammu, life appeared to be returning to normal as restrictions under section 144 of CrPc were completely lifted in five districts. In the other five districts, restrictions were relaxed to facilitate Eid preparations, according to an official who did not wish to be named.

Magistrates have been deployed at critical spots to act as facilitators for the convenience of the general public, an official stated.

Jammu and Kashmir governor's administration issued an advisory saying that 300 special telephone booths were being established to help people communicate with their kin.

The district administrations were constantly reviewing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and they would facilitate people to offer prayers at mosques during Eid, an official told PTI, asking not to be named.

Last Friday, people were allowed to visit neighbourhood mosques and offer prayers there. However, large gatherings were not allowed in any part of the Valley.

"The government is conscious of the ground

situation and doing utmost so that there is a minimum inconvenience to the people. Every day something or the other restrictions are relaxed. We will take decisions on lifting restrictions on phones as early as possible," the official added.

District magistrates have made arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha, the official statement said, adding that treasuries, banks and ATMs were made functional even on a holiday in the run-up to the festival.

Authorities in Srinagar said there have been sporadic instances of stone-pelting by protesters but no gun firing by security forces in the past six days. Television images showed cars and people moving in some parts of Kashmir.

All India Radio quoted chief secretary BVR Subrahmanyam as saying that people were coming out of their homes for Eid shopping. Union minister of state for home G Kishan Reddy said on Saturday he hoped prohibitory orders would be "fully peaceful in the coming 10-15 days."

While officials said that the Valley remained peaceful, Eid festivities largely remained missing on the streets on Sunday.

"Earlier, Eid used to be celebrated with great fervour. This time, very few people are on the streets and people are not buying things like previous years," said Gohar Ahmad, a resident of the old city.

"Though restrictions were eased in the morning, most shops didn't open despite Eid," said Fayaz Ahmad, owner of a ready-made clothes store at Srinagar's Regal Chowk.

Restrictions were imposed in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent security threats as Parliament effectively revoked Article 370 last week, ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and passed a bill bifurcating it into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh. All communication links have been disrupted since August 5, after the Centre's decision on Article 370.

Govt will leave no stone unturned to make India a better business destination: PM

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that his government will leave no stone unturned to make India a better business destination. In an exclusive interview to an English daily, Mr Modi said, the vision of the NDA government for the next five years is to have investment-led growth and it is targeting 100 lakh crore rupees worth of investment in the coming five years. He said, the government is working on policies to

promote inflows from domestic as well as foreign sources to achieve this vision.

Mr Modi added that it will entail further liberalising the country's FDI policy, simplification of labour laws, further enhancing ease of doing business, power sector reforms, asset monetisation and asset recycling in public sector, and reforms in banking, insurance and pension sectors.

The Prime Minister said the private sector must continue to believe in the India story assuring that he will do his best to make India a better place to

do business. Mr. Modi said, the Centre is working towards long-term growth, not the kind which happened between 2008 and 2014.

Saying that setting higher goals and objectives and achieving them had been the hallmark of the NDA regime, the Prime Minister added that the Centre has laid a solid foundation for high and sustainable growth over the long run. He said, India has broken the perception that developing countries cannot grow at a higher rate for a reasonable period.

Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad inaugurates its first neurosciences OPD in Palwal

By a C0rrespondent
Palwal, August, 12,



Pioneering in providing latest in healthcare across Delhi NCR and North India, Fortis Hospital Faridabad has now extended its services at Palwal with the inauguration of its first Neuroscience OPD at Apex Hospital yesterday. This is aimed at benefiting residents of Palwal and its neighboring areas.

The OPD will be operational on second Sundays every month to allow ease of access for patients in and around Palwal for super specialist consultations. This will also drastically cut down on travels for neuroscience related consults for both patients and their caregivers.

The main objective of setting up such OPD services in Palwal is to extend best services to those where traveling for consults is not a viable option. Highly experienced and well qualified doctors from Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad have already created their own milestones and are now inclined towards serving the society for ensuring better health.

Dr. Rohit Gupta Director - Neuro Surgery, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad, addressed the gathering and shed light on the growing incidence of neurological ailments including acute stroke, chronic migraine, epilepsy, Dementia, PD among many others amongst people in tier III cities. Emphasis was laid on the rising cases of neurological problems among all age groups and timely intervention is the key

to treatment.

"Awareness about the symptoms of neurological disorders and importance of timely intervention should be made more prominent among the masses. Delay in treatment especially in cases of stroke, leaves more than one-third of the victims permanently disabled and over 25% die within 1 year. Patients suffering from acute stroke need to arrive to the hospital within the stipulated window period which makes them eligible for thrombolytic therapy, providing a likelihood of significant recovery in over 50% of the cases." **Said Dr Rohit Gupta.**

According to the data provided by the Neurological Society of India, prevalence and incidence rates of common neurological disorders including epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease and tremors are found to be higher among the rural population. With over 60 lakh people suffering from epilepsy, high fatality rates of stroke (around 35%), calls for urgent strategies to establish outreach neurology services to cater to remote and rural areas.

"There is high prevalence of smoking, systolic hypertension, high fasting blood glucose level, and lower

high-density lipoprotein cholesterol in our population at a younger age predisposing them to various neurological conditions at a younger age. Lack of awareness, lower rate of literacy and poor primary health care services are the key attributable factors.

Advancements in neurosciences with the availability of thrombolytic therapy for treatment of stroke Botox therapy for treating chronic migraine, Deep Brain Stimulation for treating Parkinson's disease, etc have made it possible to treat any such condition thereby improving the victim's quality of life." **Added Dr Gupta.**

"It's disappointing that most of us just accept the pain as a normal part of life instead of identifying and eliminating the root cause of the problem. Back or neck pain should not be neglected. Raising awareness among the masses about the symptoms of such neurological ailments will aid in early diagnosis of the condition and timely treatment will help in solving the complication within a short span of time providing complete recovery. Fortis Healthcare is determined to expand its reach and bring the best quality healthcare to the people of Haryana." **said Dr. VP/ Zonal Head, Fortis Healthcare Ltd.**

Sports News

Virat Kohli eclipses Brian Lara with century in Port-of-Spain

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Virat Kohli scored five consecutive half-centuries during the ICC World Cup but there was a sense of unease among his fans and perhaps in the mind of the man himself. Any player would be overjoyed with that kind of consistency in international cricket, but when it comes to Kohli, there is always that desire to see him score a century and it finally came after a gap of 11 innings in Trinidad and Tobago in the 2nd ODI against West Indies. The Indian captain won

the toss and elected to bat first under clear skies. However, Shikhar Dhawan was dismissed very early in the innings by Sheldon Cottrell which forced the skipper to walk out and take control of proceedings - and take control he did. A cover drive off Kemar Roach got his innings rolling and the ODI run-machine never looked hassled at any point during his innings. He lost Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant, but found solid support in Shreyas Iyer. The 42nd ODI century seemed inevitable as the skipper almost cruised his way past the mark.

The weather in Trinidad was hot and humid and this oppressive heat started to take a toll on the players. Kohli wanted to break free as his tired limbs were sapped off energy. However, Carlos Brathwaite got the better of his as his attempted heave over deep mid-wicket was caught comfortably by Kemar Roach at long off.

He walked out to a standing ovation and like it has become a norm, with every Kohli century a record is created. His 120 became the highest ODI innings by any captain in the West Indies. He went past Brian Lara's 116 which was scored against Sri Lanka at Bridgetown back in 2003.

India beat West Indies by 59 runs via D/L method in 2nd ODI

Agency
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India beat West Indies by 59 runs via Duckworth-Lewis method in the second ODI at Port-of-Spain in Trinidad last night. By virtue of the win, India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The first ODI between the two sides was

washed out.

India rode on Kohli's 120 off 125 balls and Shreyas Iyer's 71 to post a challenging 279 for seven after opting to bat. West Indies were then set a revised target of 270 runs to chase off 46 overs under Duckworth-Lewis method. In pursuit, the West Indies were bundled out for 210 in 42 overs.

"Feels good to get a hundred when the team wanted me to get one. Shikhar and Rohit didn't get a big one. One of the top three has always got the big one. A senior man had to step up and today was my opportunity to step up. It was important to string in a lot of dot balls," Kohli said at the end of the match.

South East Asia News

Death toll rises to 44 as typhoon Lekima wreaks havoc in eastern China

Courtesy The Straitstimes
Beijing Aug 12,

The death toll from typhoon Lekima in eastern China rose to 44 people on Monday morning (Aug 12), according to official data, as the storm continued up the coast, racking up billions of dollars in economic losses and widely disrupting travel.

An additional 12 people were recorded dead from the storm, including seven from Zhejiang province and five from Shandong, with 16 people missing, according to data from provincial emergency bureaus and state media.

State broadcaster CCTV had put the death toll at 32 on Sunday.

Typhoon Lekima made landfall early on Saturday in China's Zhejiang province, with winds



gusting up to 187kph.

The centre of the storm has since travelled north through Shandong and off the coast. Many of the earlier deaths occurred when a natural dam collapsed in Zhejiang after a deluge of 160mm of rain within three hours.

The Shandong Emergency Management Bureau said

more than 180,000 people were evacuated in the province, adding to an earlier evacuation of roughly 1 million people in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces as well as the financial hub of Shanghai.

The latest update from Shandong brings the total estimated economic toll of the storm to 18 billion yuan (\$3.53

billion) in China, including damage to 364,000ha of crops and more than 36,000 homes.

Shandong alone estimated the total economic impact on agriculture was 939 million yuan.

Qingdao, a popular tourist hub in eastern Shandong, issued a red alert on Sunday, closing all its tourists sites and suspending 127 trains and all long-distance bus services, according to official media.

Lekima is China's ninth typhoon this year. China's state broadcaster said on Sunday more than 3,200 flights had been cancelled but that some suspensions on high-speed railway lines had been lifted.

The typhoon was expected to weaken as it heads northwest off the coast of Shandong into the ocean.