

B'desh Prez resigns

DHAKA: Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin, a longtime ally of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, resigned on Friday, citing health complications, two years ahead of the end of his tenure.

Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed will serve as Acting President for 90 days in accordance with the Constitution, and a new President must be elected within that timeframe.

In his resignation letter addressed to Speaker Ahmed, 76-year-old Shahabuddin said he is "seriously ill" and suffering from heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and kidney complications.

"Recently, medical tests detected a disease called Autonomic Neuropathy. Due to this illness, I sometimes lose consciousness briefly. Because of the prevalence of these diseases, I am ►P11

Narco-terror funding case: ED raids 9 locations in J-K, Punjab

JAMMU: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at nine locations in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged narco-terror funding network operating between the two regions, officials said.

The searches were carried out by the ED's Jammu Sub Zonal Office under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), at premises in Punjab and areas near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

The case is based on FIRs registered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and Punjab Police. The ED said the investi-

NH remains shut for third day; all Yatras suspended on day 6

Families evacuated in Udh; 2 stranded in Kathua river rescued

JAMMU: Due to incessant rains, the flash floods hit the Barkuanda area of Udhampur district early Friday, causing damage to several houses and prompting the evacuation of affected families, officials said.

The district administration evacuated three affected families to the government middle school at Barkuanda as a precautionary measure, they said.

No casualties have been reported so far, while officials have launched an assessment



of the damage caused by the flash floods and landslides. In another incident, flash

MEA: Beijing continues to illegally occupy territories in J&K, Ladakh



NEW DELHI: India on Friday said it hasn't violated China's sovereignty in any manner but Beijing continues to illegally occupy territories in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, as New Delhi reacted sharply to Chinese readouts

terpart Wang Yi in Manila on Wednesday.

It mentioned that Jaisankar assured the Chinese side about respecting China's sovereignty, including issues such as Taiwan and Tibet.

Sources said the external affairs minister did not make such comments as claimed by the Chinese side.

"Let me say that the external affairs minister said that when it comes to sovereignty issues, it is actually India that should be and is raising them," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal answering a question at a media briefing.

"India does not violate China's sovereignty ►P11

Dr Farooq urges Centre to table Statehood Bill

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday called for the introduction and passing of a bill to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Reiterating the party's longstanding demand, Abdullah urged the Central government to honour its repeated commitments by introducing and passing the statehood restoration bill during the ongoing session.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir have waited long enough. The restoration of statehood is not merely a political demand but a consti-

tutional and democratic imperative," he said in a statement.

The three-time chief minister said that Parliament must seize this opportunity to fulfil the government's solemn assurances given repeatedly to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and restore their democratic rights and dignity without any further delay.

He also commended the Omar Abdullah-led government for its "prompt, compassionate and hands-on" response in tackling the challenges arising out of the recent inclement weather in the Union Territory.

The elected government's swift ►P11

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Govt to present strict Anti-Paper Leak Bill in Parl: Modi

Draft Bill proposes 10 yrs jail, Rs 10 Cr fine; Pradhan's resignation non-negotiable: CJP



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Thursday that a bill containing provisions for strong action against paper leaks will be introduced in Parliament next week.

In a video message, Modi also said the contours of the bill will be discussed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet to be held on Friday, where the proposed legislation will be finalised.

"The cabinet will discuss the issue of paper leaks on

SC to monitor steps to curb NEET exam 'paper leaks'

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday told the Centre that it will closely monitor the steps taken to curb NEET examination paper leaks, while underlining that ad hocism has caused trouble for years.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, which was hearing a batch of petitions, including one by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the ►P11

NTA sacks 47 officials, may pursue legal action

NEW DELHI: In a major crackdown in the NEET paper leak controversy, the National Testing Agency terminated 47 officials and is set to pursue legal and criminal action against some, officials said on Friday.

The move comes a day after Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi was shunted out to the Panchayati Raj Ministry.

"The NTA is set to undergo an overhaul and more reformative actions will follow. ►P11

Shah speaks to martyr's son, assures support

LG meets family of Head Constable martyred in Anantnag terror attack

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

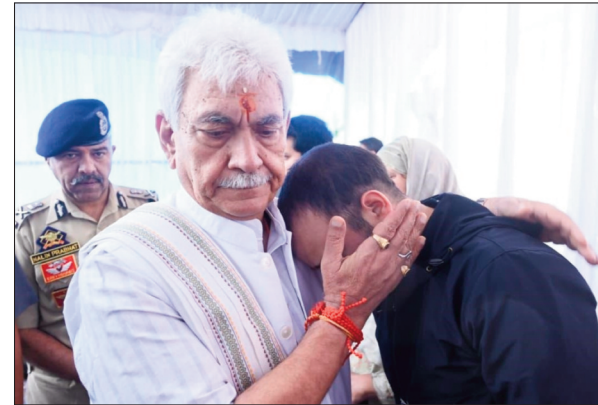
SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday spoke to the family of Jammu and Kashmir Police head constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was martyred in a terrorist attack in Anantnag district earlier this week.

Shah spoke to Qureshi's son during the visit of BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma to the residence of the slain policeman in the Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Sharma said the Union home minister assured the family that the government stands firmly with them.

"Visited the home of martyred Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi in Budgam to pay respects and offer heartfelt condolences to his family. Grateful to Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri @AmitShah Ji for personally speaking to the martyr's son and assuring the family," Sharma said in a post on X.

He also posted a video of the visit to the family, during which the call was made, on



X.

Qureshi was on Amarnath Yatra security duty when he was attacked around 12.30 pm at Srinagar's Lal Chowk on July 22.

The Resistance Front, a shadow group of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the targeted attack in a social media post shortly after the incident, according to officials.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the residence of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was martyred in a terrorist attack, in Budgam district and assured his family that the administration stands firmly with them.

Sinha also assured full support to the family until Qureshi's son becomes eligible for a government job on compassionate grounds.

The LG was accompanied by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Inspector General V K Birdi, and Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Athar ►P11

'Bharat Saare Jahan Se Accha Tha, Hai, Aur Hona Hai', says Dr Indresh Kumar



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'Cockroach Janata Party creating fissures in nation'

JAMMU: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) National Executive Member and Chief Patron of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch Dr Indresh Kumar categorically stated that several years ago



Jammu, on Friday wherein he graced as the chief guest.

During the programme, former special guests former Deputy CM Dr Nirmal Singh, Shivang Satya Gupta, Ali Mohd Chechi, State General Secretary, BJP ST Morcha Jammu & Kashmir, and

President of the Rashtriya Gau Raksha Vahini Gau Seva Sangh, Muslim Prakosht Wing, Jammu & Kashmir (JKUT), were honoured by Dr. Indresh Kumar in recognition of their organisational and social work in Jammu & Kashmir union ►P11

Protesters not ready to back down, Centre's response 'decisive': Omar



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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday asserted that the student protesters are entitled to

(CJP) statement about the demand for the Union education minister's resignation being "non-negotiable".

Speaking to reporters here, Abdullah also claimed that the protest is no longer just about the CJP.

"I feel the Centre should engage in dialogue with these youngsters on all the issues because this is no longer just about CJP. I don't think the CJP has any control over this protest now. It has gone beyond their control," he said.

The chief minister, who was in Delhi on July 20 along with his party leaders to protest over the ►P11

make their demands and it is for the Centre to see whether they want the youth protest in Delhi to continue or not.

He was referring to the Cockroach Janta Party's