



CAPITAL HAPPENINGS

'Stop Raj Bagh bridge work, construct it elsewhere'

Convent, parents mail memorandum to CM, Governor

GK CITY CORRESPONDENT

Srinagar, June 2: Concerned over the ongoing construction of a vehicular bridge near Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Raj Bagh, a leading missionary school in this summer Capital, the school people and the parents Saturday mailed a joint memorandum to the government top brass including Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah asking them to get the work stopped.

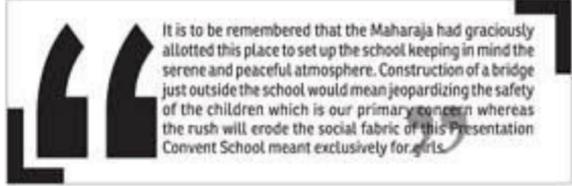
The memorandum was mailed following an emergency meeting of the school management, staffers and parents where it was unanimously resolved that construction of the bridge near the school would be "disastrous."

The meeting concluded with the framing of a committee, which will plead the bridge issue before the government.

The government is constructing a four lane bridge across Jhelum between Poloview and Raj Bagh. The concrete structure is skewed in design because its two ends don't come face-to-face.

THE MEMORANDUM

"We the Management, the staff, the students and the parent community of Presentation Convent Higher Secondary are deeply concerned about the ongoing construction of a bridge outside our school, which will connect Raj Bagh with



the Poloview. We humbly request your kind self to get the bridge work stopped because this structure will result in an increase in the traffic and rush, which is detrimental to the very ambience of an educational institution such as this," reads a copy of the memorandum mailed to the CM, Governor NN Vohra and the concerned MLA and MOS Home Nasir Aslam Wani who happens to be a Raj Bagh native.

"It is to be remembered that the Maharaja had graciously allotted this place to set up the school keeping in mind the serene and peaceful atmosphere. Construction of a bridge just outside the school would mean jeopardizing the safety of the children which is our primary concern."

"It will equally spoil the very essence of its being established in the peaceful ambience. The noise and air pollution is definitely going to have adverse effect on the children."

The concerned clarified that: "We are not against development, or the growing infrastructural needs of this historic City. In fact we aspire to see this place flourish. And it is for this very purpose, our School has been relentlessly contributing towards the holistic development of the children."

"Last but not the least, the rush, outside the school in the form of vehicles, hawkers or passerby including anti-social elements will erode the social fabric of the this Presentation Convent School meant exclusively for girls. And fear of this erosion of the social fabric, which we are known for, is beyond the scope of this memorandum."

The memorandum ends with an emotional paragraph: "Hope that your kind self will uphold the legacy of this institution, because for now the upcoming bridge is feared to be disastrous for everything pertaining to Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Raj

Bagh. It is for you to decide the future of this institution."

THE MEETING

Cutting across individual ideologies the parent community unanimously resolved that the bridge construction should be resisted tooth-and-nail.

Speaking at the meeting senior separatist leader Advocate Shahid-Ul-Islam, whose daughters study there said the bridge would be disastrous for the school and that the "safety and security of schoolchildren would be at stake."

Another parent Sheikh Imran said it was better for the government to change the Raj Bagh side end of the bridge by skewing it upstream towards Abdullah bridge instead of proposed downstream curve which culminates near the school.

Town planner Shafat Reshi while expressing his concern said the bridge would convert residential Raj Bagh into commercial City centre.

Prof Deeba Sarma, a parent said instead of confronting with the government, its top brass including the local MLA be approached through peaceful appeal.

The school's counsel Advocate Aga Mir Syed Latief later joined the meeting while Greater Kashmir's City Page Editor, M Hyderi expressed his personal observations on the bridge issue.

'Make book reading your habit' Omar to younger generation



READING ABOUT GRANDPA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reads a book with a cover photo of his grandfather and National Conference founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah

Srinagar, June 2: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Saturday underlined the need of inculcating book reading habit in new generation to keep this culture alive.

He said the advancement in technology and enhanced coverage by TV channels; internet and computers have declined the habit of book reading especially in the younger generation.

Addressing a gathering of writers, educationists, students and lovers of literature after inaugurating

book fair at SP College, the Chief Minister said that holding of book fair in Srinagar by National Book Trust of India after 1985 is a welcome step in the direction of reviving the habit of book reading among the people.

Omar said that it is observed that present generation is not so fond of reading books. "They instead watch TV or remain busy with internet or play video games on computers", he said stressing on developing the culture of book reading among young boys and girls.

The Chief Minister said that holding of book fairs as a regular events should be nurtured adding that

universities in the State and National Book Trust of India could join hands in this affair.

Minister for Higher Education, Abdul Gani Malik also spoke on the occasion while Deputy Chairman Legislative Council, Muhammad Yousuf Taing, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University, Talat Ahmad and Principal SP College Dr Nazir Ahmad Gilkar were present.

As many as 110 publishing houses from the State and outside have displayed books on various subjects in about 175 stalls established in the fair. The fair would continue up to 10th June and entry to the fair is free.

Clean, Green Srinagar drive scales up Sulaiman Hills

Dy CM flags off sanitation drive from Nehru Park

Srinagar, June 2: "Clean Srinagar, Green Srinagar" campaign climbed Sulaiman Hills Saturday as Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand flagged off a sanitation drive to clean the four odd kilometer uphill track of this tourist spot mostly frequented by Amarnath Yatis, who pay obeisance at a temple atop, during the annual pilgrimage.

The Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr GN Qasbi and other officers of the



corporation were present on the occasion.

Appreciating the initiative taken by the SMC, the Deputy Chief Minister said that this will have far reaching impact on the tourist industry of the state.

Describing tourism back bone of the local economy, he said need of the hour is to create better civic facilities with clean environment in the City, particularly in Dal Lake area where the tourists mostly visit.

The Deputy Chief Minister

asked the authorities of SMC to launch awareness campaign among the people and visiting tourists about the benefits of environmental cleanliness besides keeping sufficient number of dustbins on road side and other tourist places.

He said the flow of tourists in Srinagar City is expected to increase with commencement of Amarnath Yatra and asked SMC authorities to gear up cleaning operation in Srinagar City, especially at tourist places.

Talking to reporters Dr Qasbi said the City will wear a new look by mid of this month when all the Traffic Signals

will be in place adding that some new machinery was being procured to keep the City clean.

"Our multi pronged strategy to improve the civic facilities in the City particularly with regard to sanitation will bring a sea change. And this is what our campaign aims at to make Srinagar clean and green," he added.

Meanwhile the Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the traffic signal control units installed

at Karan Nagar Chowk. He was told that devices are sufficient to cater the needs of traffic management and are equipped with CCTV facilities.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Srinagar Development Authority office at Bemina and interacted with the employees of the authority. He asked Vice Chairman, Khawaja Farooq Renuzshah to look into the demands of the employees.

Who will tame taxi stand people?

WE THE Srinagarites other day while flying to my homeland, I planned to hire a taxi from Srinagar Airport Road. But I was shocked to hear the taxi driver charging exorbitantly. When I asked him to show fare list, all the taxi drivers cornered me and misbehaved.

Nobody from the tourist police came to my rescue. I wonder what must be happening with the tourists when the taxi drivers charge exorbitantly and the former argues.

By Muhammad Ali (The ideas expressed are author's own)

FILTH OVERFLOWS LAL CHOWK FOOTPATH



NEWS SHOOTS Sewage overflowing a footpath at Lal Chowk near Lala Rukh Hotel has been irking the pedestrians even as SMC is yet to look into the matter (Citizen Journalist, Kawasr Manzoor)

2 Safai Walas wounded

Srinagar: At least two SMC Safai Walas were wounded Saturday while driving downhill from the Sulaiman Hills, after the sanitation drive.

The injured were identified as Abdul Ahad of Tangmarg and Mushtaq Ahmed of Nowhatta.

Later one was taken to SKIMS because of chest pain. The SMC commissioner however refuted that the one hospitalized at SKIMS was in a critical condition.

"We brought him to SKIMS as a precautionary measure. Otherwise he is OK," the Commissioner said.

Events Today

June 03

12th Annual Convocation of Darul Uloom Baitalya will be held at the Lal Bazar Campus from 1 PM onwards. Prominent scholars including Hazrat Moulana Sajad Nauman, Mufti Nazeer Ahmed Qasmi, Moulana Syed Arshid Nadvi, Mufti Muzaffar, Mufti Abdul Raheem and Moulana Hameed Ullah will address the gathering.

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Dr. Sayeed Zafar, Group Director will be in Valley between 4 to 7 June, 2012
For Further Information Pls. Contact:
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Need to revive reading habit in new generation: Omar

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Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underlined the need of inculcating book reading habit in new generation to keep the culture alive. The advancement in technology and enhanced coverage by TV channels, Internet and use of computers have declined the habit of book reading especially in the younger generation, Omar said

while inaugurating Srinagar Book Fair here.

The Chief Minister said holding of book fair in Srinagar by National Book Trust of India after 1986 is a welcome step in the direction of reviving the habit of book reading among people. Omar said it is observed that present generation is not so fond of reading books. "They instead watch TV or remain busy with Internet or play video games on computers," he said. The Chief Minister said holding of book fairs as regular events should be nurtured.

Universities in the state and National Book Trust of India could join hands in this direction, he added. As many as 110 publishing houses from the state and outside have displayed books on various subjects in about 175 stalls established in the fair. The entry to the fair, which will conclude on June 10, is free of cost.

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Need to revive reading habit in new generation: Omar

Press Trust of India / Srinagar June 02, 2012 17:05 IST

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underlined the need of inculcating book reading habit in new generation to keep the culture alive.

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Kashmir hosts national book fair after 26 years

Saturday, 02 Jun 2012 at 09:22

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Over 170 stalls showcase books on variety of issues

Sameer Showkin Lone

Srinagar, June 02: First time after the eruption of militancy in Kashmir, a nine-day long national level book fair began in Kashmir Saturday in which 110 publishers from across India have set up book stalls. The book fair organized by National Book Trust of India in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy for Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and Urdu Academy was inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here in the premises of SP College.

Famous publishing houses, book sellers and literary organisations across India are participating in the book fair.

More than 170 stalls have been set to showcase books of diverse stuff mainly in English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Hindi and English.

These stalls house books about prominent personalities of Islamic world like Hasan-ul-Bana Shaheed, Moulana Syed Abul Moudidi, books about freedom movement of India like 'Inqilaab 1857' by P C Josh, 'I am a dream to my village', 'Freedom Struggle and Indian Muslims' and several other books.

With a cursory look at various book stalls, one finds books about various religions, stalwarts of Islamic movement across the world, freedom movement of India, Indian Muslims, books about pre and post independence era of India and Pakistan and several other issues.

A book titled 'Trials of Independence' by B R Agarwala highlights the period of rise and fall of British rule in India particularly the pre and post 1857.

The book also talks about Bhagat Singh and the author has written: "Bhagat Singh, the symbol remained and within a few months, in each town and village of India and to a lesser extent, the rest of India resounded with his name."

On page 190, the book terms Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, a lion on trail and writes about various phases of political life of Shekih Abdullah.

Incharge of the book fair, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra told Rising Kashmir that the book fair was first of its kind in Kashmir in last two decades.

"We have a variety of books here and it almost covers all parts of life like culture, tradition, language, lifestyle, health. We have books about pleasure reading as well," Mahapatra said.

He said they were planning to open reading clubs in all government run primary schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have already taken the issue with State government and I hope in next three months the plan will be implemented at the ground level," Mahapatra said.

He said the last national book fair was organized in Kashmir in 1986 in which around 40 publishers had



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Kashmir is reading well

Sunday, 03 Jun 2012 at 10:48

0 / 0



Kashmir is reading well

After 26 yrs, NBT fair fills smell of books in Valley

Sidhrah Fatima

Srinagar, June 03: Kashmir is reading. Reading well and it is a good sign for this conflict-hit region. Smell of books is filling the valley and Srinagar Book Fair-2012, organized after a gap of 26 years by the National Book Trust (NBT), where young people gather everyday to buy all kinds of books, has just doubled it. The fair welcomes visitors and curious readers alike with array of books.

NBT's book fair expected to long for nine days has witnessed encouraging response so far as children along with their parents could be seen rummaging through colorful books, hopping from one stall to other. College students could be seen searching for the stuff of their interest, while seasoned senior readers weighed their options from the serious content. There is something for everyone.

The summer capital is hosting the book fair at Sri Pratap College ground here with more than 110 publishers and booksellers from various parts of the country participating. The Book Fair is a big step, into helping national and international literature reach the people of Kashmir. Literature in Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Punjabi and English are the main attractions of the fair. The organizers also include the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Language and Urdu Akadmi Jammu and Kashmir. The fair shall also include a seminar on the works of famous Urdu short story writer Sadat Hassan Manto, in coming days.

The book fair was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah on June 02, who emphasized on the need to encourage book reading habit in the State among all age groups.

Srinagar Book Fair is a step, into helping national and international literature reach the people of Kashmir, organizers said. A multitude of 110 publishers display their books in 180 stalls in the college grounds. The diversity of books is commendable and focus is on history, politics, Islam, Indian literature, Kashmiri literature, photography, cooking, lifestyle, IT and business. "This is a great initiative and an adventure to build rapport between the educated populace of Kashmir and writers of the country," said Manoj Das, an award-winning writer in Oriya and Punjabi who graced the book fair to talk to his readers.

Besides leading Kashmiri publishers, publishing houses from Delhi have grabbed the opportunity to showcase their book collection to readers in Kashmir.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, `an autonomous publication house under the Ministry



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More people throng National Book Fair on Day 3

Monday, 04 Jun 2012 at 09:12

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Murad, Maududi, Geelani, Khurshid selling in good numbers

Sidrah Fatma

Srinagar, June 04: The nine-day-long Srinagar Book Fair-2012 Monday evoked strong response from visitors and curious readers who purchased books of their interest in large numbers.

“Islamic Adab and History of Islam are two main topics that people are showing interest in,” said Sales Assistant, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Sanjay Singh.

“Khurram Murad, Maulana Maudoodi, Syed Ali Geelani and Prof Khurshid are some popular authors whose books are selling in good numbers,” said Manager, Maushurat Publishers, New Delhi, Iqbal Mubashir.

After a wait of 26 years, the book fair has ignited eager minds of Kashmir to read literature from all across the world. “This is my first visit to any book fair and I found books on subjects which I have never read. This has helped me to create new interests,” said Adil Mudasir Lone, a B. Sc student. On third day the national-level fair witnessed rush of people belonging to all age groups.

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