

THRISSUR: The body of a lorry driver from Mettuppalayam was found in a well at Ollur near here on Wednesday. Subramanian was the driver of a lorry that met with an accident on Saturday. He escaped from the scene soon after the accident, and was reported missing, the police said. The police suspect that he must have fallen into the well while trying to escape from the scene.

Injured man found on railway track

THRISSUR: A 52-year-old man was found on the railway track near Vallathol Nagar railway station on Wednesday with both his legs severed. He has been identified as Samuel, son of Melpurakash of Chhattisgarh. It is suspected that he fell off from the Ernakulam-Guwahati train. He is undergoing treatment at Thrissur Medical College Hospital.

Seminar on plant medicines

KOTTAYAM: An international seminar on 'Molecular secrets of plant medicines' will be held at CMS College on October 17 and 18 under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology. Mahatma Gandhi University Vice-Chancellor A.V. George will inaugurate the two-day programme. Solomon Habtemariam, principal lecturer and programme leader, Pharmacognosy Research Laboratory, University of Greenwich, will deliver the keynote address. Talks by various experts in the field including Dr. Habtemariam, P.J. Mathew, head of Plant Genetic Resources Division, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGR) and A.B. Remashree, deputy project director, Centre for Medicinal Plants Research, Kottakkal Aryavaidyasala will be held as part of the conference.

One killed in wild elephant attack

KATTAPPANA: An old man, who was asleep in his house in Sinkukandam, was killed in an instance of wild elephant attack early on Wednesday. The Santanpara police said the incident occurred around 4 a.m. The mud wall of the house collapsed when the wild elephant attacked it, killing Krishnankutty, 70. The roof of the house also fell, trapping the old man inside. The police said his body was taken for an autopsy to a taluk hospital in Nedumkandam. Sinkukandam is an area in the elephant corridor. Adivasis, who were allotted land there under a government scheme, had mostly abandoned it due to constant attacks by wild animals.

ENGAGEMENTS

KOTTAYAM

Centre of Biotechnology,

KOCHI: The Ministry of Environment and Forests' move to restrict the declaration of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) to 37 per cent of the Western Ghats would lead to plundering of vast tracts of the area, said V.S. Vijayan, a leading ecologist.

The 37 per cent area includes reserve forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which are already protected. No development activities are permitted there. Excluding 63 per cent area of the Ghats by terming it as cultural landscape would have disastrous effects, said Mr. Vijayan, a member of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP).

Once the government

Bakrid celebrated with tradi

Kerala Bureau

THRISSUR/KOTTAYAM: Bakrid or Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice for the Islam faithful, was celebrated with religious fervour in Thrissur on Wednesday.

Prayers were offered in various Idgahs and mosques across the district. Women, children and the elderly people participated in the prayers with devotion.

Prayers were followed by feasts with near and dear ones, and visits to friends and relatives. Faithful Muslims in good numbers remembered the sacrifice of Ibrahim by performing animal sacrifice and distributing the meat.

In Kottayam, prayers were held in mosques and special Idgahs arranged at various places.

The Kottayam district committee of Kerala Naduvathul Mujahidheen (KNM) organised Id prayers at Nehru Stadium in Nagampadam. KNM district president Azhar Farooqui led the prayers. Maulavi Swailha Kumarnam, patron of the Kottayam Central Idgah Committee, led the prayers



Thirty-seven per cent of the Western Ghats declared as Ecologically Sensitive Area includes reserve forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. - FILE PHOTO

goes ahead with the proposal, massive construction and mining activities will become legitimate near the Ghats for mindless exploitation, he said. Responding to a report in metres will become possible in the ecologically sensitive

areas. The government decision would throw open the remaining areas of the Ghats for mindless exploitation, he said.

Against organised lobbyists and mafias. The report had pro-people approach. The implementation of the WGEEP report would have adversely affected only the mining mafia and those



REMEMBERING A SACRIFICE: (Left) Devotees offer prayers at Idgahs organised at CMS on Wednesday. - PHOTOS: K.K. NAJEEB AND BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

organised by the committee at the Thirunakkara Maidan. Maulavi Muhammed Ameen Alhasany led the prayers at the Thazhathangai Juma Masjid. Maulavi Sayid Alqasimi led the

prayers at the Thaj Juma Masjid in Kottayam. Special arrangements were made for women to offer prayers at the venues.

Bakrid is also known as Eid-ul-Zuha, which means the Eid of Sacrifice. It is celebrated by the Muslim community across the world on the 10th day of the Muslim month of Zul-Hijja. Bakrid is a commemoration of Hadrat Ibrahim's great test

Govt. sets ball rolling to supply piped natural gas to houses

R. Ramabhadran Pillai

KOCHI: The government has got the ball rolling to establish infrastructure for supplying natural gas through pipelines for domestic use in Ernakulam.

- PNGRB has commenced sale of bid document
- LNG is now being supplied to FACT and BPCL Kochi

Raids hobble Com plan for pushcart

Staff Reporter

KOCHI: The series of raids by the Vigilance at the Consumer's outlets and warehouses across the State last week seems to have hobbled its plan to launch a chain of eateries on pushcarts

The plan was to launch the first 'thattukada' at Gandhi Nagar in Kochi before Onam.