

The Hindu, 1 September 2004

**To contest**

MUMBAI, AUG. 31. With some political and social organisations rallying behind him, Salim Khan Durrani, an accused in the 1993 bomb blast case, is all set to contest the Maharashtra Assembly elections from Amboli.

The Hindu, 1 September 2004

**Criminals held after encounter**

NEW DELHI, AUG. 31. Four alleged criminals wanted by the Haryana police were arrested after a brief encounter with a joint team of the Special Staff and the Najafgarh police this past Monday. Two country-made pistols, a stolen car, a motorcycle and other stolen articles were recovered from their possession. On August 24, Amit Tyagi, who works as chief medical officer at the Police Training College, was going in his Maruti Alto to pick up his wife from a hospital when three young men on a motorcycle intercepted him on Mitraon-Surakhpur Road and two of them forced their way into the vehicle. They drove the vehicle towards Kair village where they forced Dr. Tyagi and his two children to get down from the vehicle and sped away. The third culprit fled on a motorcycle. Investigations indicated that one Ashok Pradhan, a resident of Bahadurgarh, could be involved in the case. He was involved in over 10 cases of murder, kidnapping, robbery and carjacking in Haryana.

Newindpress.com, 1 September 2004

**CBI ready with `murder-for-robbery' Dubey chargesheet**

NEW DELHI: Pushing forward its murder-for-robbery claim, the CBI is ready with its chargesheet in the Satyendra Dubey murder case and will file it in a Patna court later this week to meet the mandatory 90-day deadline. Though it has been unable to explain the whereabouts of the rickshaw-puller who witnessed the Dubey murder or the death of two suspects after they were questioned, the CBI has alleged that four of the five men, arrested three months ago from a village near Gaya, killed Dubey for the Rs 4,000 he was carrying in his briefcase. The NHAI manager, who had complained of corruption along a Bihar stretch of the Golden Quadrilateral highway project, was killed shortly after he boarded a rickshaw at the Gaya railway station on November 27 last year.

Newindpress.com, 1 September 2004

**Move to book redsander smugglers under PD Act**

TIRUPATI: Expressing concern over the sudden spurt in smuggling of red sanders from Nellore, Chittoor and Kadapa districts, Forest Minister S Vijayaramaraju on Tuesday said that the State Government is seriously considering to book cases against the smugglers under the Preventive Detention Act. The red sanders smuggling had been on the rise during the last couple of years with the demand for the valuable wood increasing in the far east countries like Japan. The forest department officials had been busting the gangs. Logs worth crores of rupees were seized at Chennai while they were being smuggled out to the neighbouring countries. On being informed by the department officials, Vijayaramaraju said that every effort would be taken to put an end to the menace.

The Hindu, 2 September 2004

**2 women jailed in heroin case**

CHENNAI, SEPT. 1. A city court today convicted two women to 10 years rigorous imprisonment in a case relating to smuggling one kilo of heroin in 2000. Naseer Ahmed, Special Court judge, dealing with trafficking of narcotic substances, imposed the sentence on R. Rani (45) and Y. Neelavathi (55). Two persons were arrested on Sunday in Royapuram on charges of possessing heroin worth Rs. 25 lakhs. The police said that Selvakumar (44) native of Tiruttani, and 'Bullet' Rajaof Tondiarpet were intercepted following a tip-off.

The Times of India, 2 September 2004

**Dawood's brother, 4 others enter terror list**

NEW DELHI: Dawood Ibrahim's younger brother Anees Ibrahim along with four other ranking members of the notorious D-Company are the new additions to the list of 20 terrorists and criminals India wants Pakistan to hand over. Anwar Haji, prominent Mumbai serial blasts accused Mohammad Dosa, Aftab Batki and Javed Patel are other additions on the improved New Delhi's "Most Wanted" list handed over by home secretary, Dharendra Singh, to Pakistan authorities last month. The original Top 20 list was handed over to Islamabad in 2002 after the December 13 2001 attack on Parliament. This brings the number

of people wanted in India for serious crimes who have found a sanctuary in Pakistan to 25. Authorities are convinced that those on the "Wanted" list are being sheltered by state-actors in Pakistan as part of their plan to harass India. The complaint has been corroborated by reports in sections of Pakistani media about Dawood Ibrahim's flourishing business in that country, his feuds with other gangs as well as the support gets from the government agencies there. Musharraf administration, however, has steadfastly denied the presence of any of the Indian fugitives on Pakistan soil. As a matter of fact, it retaliated by crafting its own list to counter India's accusation.

Southasianmedia.net, 2 September 2004

**Drugs worth Rs 21 cr found in Mumbai flat**

MUMBAI: "He was like any other resident. He used to come down, play volleyball. Nobody suspected anything. We only knew when the police arrived." Watchman Ramakant Yadav had no reason to suspect that the tenant in Flat No 11 of Annapurna Building, Chembur, was a notorious drug dealer. Neither did the 50-odd, largely upper middle class, residents of the six-storey building. So, they were in for a rude shock when a 15-member police team barged into their building on Monday morning and raided a two-room apartment on the third floor. The Property Cell of the Crime Branch got information that Santosh alias Akhil alias Varghese Lobo was a brown sugar dealer. When they raided the 33-year-old's apartment, they seized nearly 20 kg brown sugar — hidden in a trunk — worth Rs 21 crore in the international market. Weighing machines, material used for adulteration of drugs and plastic bags were also recovered.

The Hindu, 2 September 2004

**'Recruitment fraud', case filed** (Devesh K. Pandey)

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1. The Anti-Corruption Branch of the Delhi Government has registered a case against the recruitment authorities and the Delhi Fire Service officials concerned after a preliminary enquiry into charges of corruption in the recruitment of fire operators about two years ago revealed certain irregularities in the process. No arrests have been made in the case so far. The Anti-Corruption Branch had received the complaint a couple of months ago alleging that at least 20

people had been fraudulently inducted as fire operators in connivance with some Fire Service personnel. The recruitments, for which candidates were required to possess heavy transport vehicle driving licences, had been made through the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board for which an advertisement was published way back in April 1999. The complaint alleged that some of the candidates in question did not have even genuine driving licences, as they were not eligible for that on the day the advertisement for recruitments was published.

New Age, 2 September 2004

**Dhaka to seeks India swoop on its terrorists**  
Dhaka will formally request New Delhi to take measures to stop the anti-Bangladesh elements operating on the Indian soil and hunt down Bangladeshi criminals who have taken shelter there, highly placed sources in the government said. The request will be made at the fifth home secretary-level meeting of the two neighbours, scheduled to be held in Dhaka from September 16 to 17. An inter-ministerial preparatory meeting, with Home Secretary Md Omar Faruque in the chair, took the decision on Wednesday. Representatives from the foreign, the law, justice and parliamentary affairs and the land ministries attended the meeting. "Bangladesh will want to know what initiatives India has taken against the 39 anti-Bangladeshi camps active on Indian soil and against the criminals who have taken refuge there," an official told New Age on Wednesday. The list of the 39 camps was handed over to the Indian authorities during the director general level meeting of the border guards of the countries earlier this year in New Delhi.

Irin, 2 September 2004

**Commander with links to poppy cultivation**  
ANKARA: Arghandab, Mohammad Azim, a warlord based in the district of Arghandab, 20 km south of Kandahar city in the southern province of the same name, has spoken in an interview with IRIN of his personal involvement in poppy cultivation and warned that the poppy eradication campaign under way this year would lead to economic and social instability, and the rural population turning against Kabul's already weak authority. Azim, who finances his private militia with proceeds from the poppy trade,

was not prepared to take responsibility for the problems his opium causes in the West and blamed those who process and trade in the drug, rather than the farmers.

The Hindu, 2 September 2004

**375 bags of rice seized**  
PONDICHERRY, SEPT. 1. The food cell police here today arrested the driver of a lorry (bearing Tamil Nadu registration number) and registered a case under Public Distribution Control Order 2001 for alleged diversion of 375 bags of rice (19 tonnes) from Tamil Nadu to Pondicherry on Tuesday. The Inspector of food cell, M. Prasad Rao, said a flying squad of the Excise department during its routine combing operations in interior villages of Pondicherry against illicit distillation of arrack or smuggling of rectified spirit from Pondicherry spotted the lorry with the consignment near a rice mill at Mullodai. Mr. Rao said the rice was reportedly brought for polishing. But there was no document with the driver. The flying squad informed the food cell police and handed over the consignment and the vehicle. The food cell police had since seized the rice bags and the lorry and also arrested the driver.

The Tribune, 2 September 2004

**Action plan to break khadi-khaki nexus in UP**

Lucknow, September 1: Determined to break the khadi-khaki nexus responsible for a steep rise in the crime graph of the state, UP Chief Secretary V.K. Mittal has announced a comprehensive action plan to check crime. An extraordinary meeting to review the situation was necessitated by a sudden spurt in crime which even dampened the celebrations of the Samajawadi Party-led coalition completing a year in office as on that very day, five members of a family were murdered in the state capital. Besides, several kidnappings for ransom in Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasai have exposed the government's claim of an improved law and order situation.

The Tribune, 2 September 2004

**One held in stock exchange scam**

KOLKATA: After a hiatus of over a year, the city police swung into action arresting Alok Biyani in connection with the multi-crore scam at the Calcutta Stock Exchange in March 2001. Biyani, a proclaimed offender, was

arrested from the NSC Bose International Airport on Tuesday night while he was preparing to board a flight to Australia. — PTI

The Times of India, 3 September 2004

**Fraudster finally extradited to India**

MUMBAI: Sharmila Shanbag, who was arrested by the Interpol in Germany last month for allegedly defrauding some Mumbai businessmen 10 years ago, was finally extradited to India on Wednesday. A team from the economic offences wing of the city police brought her to Mumbai and a local court remanded her to police custody till September 15, according to deputy commissioner of police Dhananjay Kamlakar. Shanbag had played a cat-and-mouse game with law enforcers and managed to dodge an Interpol arrest warrant for more than two years. She was finally detained on May 30 this year at Munich airport after a long chase from the American city of Parsipenny.

The Times of India, 3 September 2004

**5 gangsters held after encounter**

NEW DELHI: Five dreaded gangsters, allegedly involved in more than 30 cases of murder, kidnapping and extortion, were arrested after an encounter from the Burari area on Thursday. Two of these gangsters, Surinder Singh and Balwant Singh, carried a reward of Rs 50,000 each. "We had information that they were in the Burari area after which we laid a trap for them. They fired at us when we intercepted their Santro car. We returned the fire and managed to overpower them," said DCP (special cell) Ashok Chand. A 9 mm foreign pistol and four locally made pistols were seized from the accused. The police said that Surinder had murdered a journalist of a local newspaper at Kaithal in Haryana last year in September. Another accused, Anil Kumar is a well-known criminal of Shakarpur in east Delhi.

The Times of India, 3 September 2004

**Telgi sidekick comes in from the cold**

HYDERABAD: Stamp vendor Mohammad Azeem Siddiqui, a prime accused in the circulation of fake stamp papers in the city was arrested on Thursday, in response to Monday's complaint by district registrar of stamps V Srinivasulu. Siddiqui had obtained a stamp vendor licence in 1998 and worked as a stamp vendor-cum-document writer. The

police said the accused confessed that in April 2000, one Hameeduddin alias Hameed, resident of Aghapura, coaxed him to sell fake non-judicial stamps on his vendor's licence and offered 25 per cent of the proceeds from the sales as commission. Hameed used to procure the fake stamps from the Telgi gang in Mumbai. Siddiqui said Hameed had also taken permission from him to sell non-judicial fake stamps in his name by forging signatures and was given Rs 2,500 every month for the purpose. Siddiqui is being produced before the third Metropolitan Magistrate for judicial remand.

Daily Times, 3 September 2004

**160 kgs of heroin seized, 7 held**

KARACHI: Police have seized 160 kilogrammes of refined heroin destined for the United States and Europe — worth over \$40 million — and arrested seven smugglers, officials said on Thursday. The stash was hidden in a container that was awaiting shipment to an unnamed African destination at Karachi port, Colonel Khizar Ilyas, a senior Anti-Narcotics Force official, told reporters here. The officials carried out a raid late on Wednesday and searched the container, which was filled with car batteries. They found 83 of the batteries were filled with heroin. Col Ilyas said authorities had rounded up seven suspects including the company's owner Alamgir Orakzai.

The Hindu, 3 September 2004

**Idol smuggling gang busted**

ALLAHABAD, SEPT. 2 . Special Operation Group of the Allahabad police today busted an international gang of idol smugglers and arrested five members while recovering nine idols, estimated to be worth Rs 1.5 crores in the international market. Acting on a tip-off, the SOG sleuths intercepted a jeep without a number plate near the Hathi park and recovered nine ancient ashtadhatu idols, reported to be several centuries old and arrested five smugglers. The arrested persons admitted that they were waiting for the buyers at the site for the smuggled idols. Police said two idols, one of Lord Vishnu and Lord Balram, are of 11th century while two idols of Laddu Gopal are 800 years old. The other idols of the Lord Krishna, Takshak snake and Lord Vishnu are of 14th century. The officials of the archaeology department confirmed that

the recovered idols bore historical importance and had a specific antique value.

The Hindu, 3 September 2004

**Minister takes up the case of poppy growers**  
JAIPUR SEPT. 2. The Rajasthan Industries Minister, Narpat Singh Rajvi, has taken up the case of poppy growers in Chittaurgarh district with the Union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, and sought an inquiry into the cancellation of their licences without affording them an opportunity of hearing. The licence of 80 per cent poppy growers in three village panchayats of Chittaurgarh district were recently cancelled allegedly without following the procedure. Mr. Rajvi, in a letter addressed to Mr. Chidambaram, pointed out that the licences had been annulled for the first time in the history of the region spanning 200 years even after issuance of notices to poppy growers. Mr. Rajvi has requested the Finance Minister to order an inquiry into the incident by the officials other than those who had ordered termination of licences and ensure transparency in the exercise. He alleged that some of the licences were restored by corrupt practices.

Daily Excelsior, 4 September 2004

**Rs 52,000 cash seized; one held**  
**Hawala channel involving Hurriyat leader**  
**busted**

JAMMU, Sept 3: Police today unearthed another hawala network in the border district of Rajouri involving a Hurriyat Conference activist and a landlord. A suspect with Rs 52,000, which were meant for distribution among the militants, was arrested from Dera Ki Gali, about 12 kms from Thanna Mandi this evening while the Hurriyat leader and the trader are likely to be arrested tomorrow morning. Police sources told the Excelsior tonight that a TATA Sumo vehicle was intercepted at Dera Ki Gali when it was heading towards Thanna Mandi from Mendhar on a specific input that hawala money and Hizbul Mujahideen literature is being transported in the vehicle by a Hurriyat Conference activist Ghulam Ahmed Mir alias Zia Mir of Thanna Mandi. Search of the vehicle led to recovery of Rs 52,240 from a bag. Another bag and some literature of Hizbul Mujahideen was also found in the vehicle.

The Hindu, 4 September 2004

**CBI files chargesheet in Dubey case**

PATNA, SEPT. 3. The Central Bureau of Investigation filed its chargesheet accusing three persons of murdering a National Highway Authority of India engineer, Satyendra Dubey. The CBI designated court judge, Sanjay Singh, ordered the production of the accused, now in judicial custody, next week. The CBI charged the accused, Mantu Kumar, Uday Kumar and Pinku Ravidas, with committing the murder and robbing the deceased. They have also been charged under the Arms Act. The special CBI team from Delhi led by the Additional SP, Vijay Kumar, had carried out the investigation and established it as a crime committed with the objective of robbery. The murder of Satyendra Dubey in Gaya on November 27 last year shot into the limelight as it came close on the heels of his disclosure in a letter to the then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, about a nexus between contractors and officials of the NHA involved in the execution of the Golden Quadrilateral project.

Rediff.com, 4 September 2004

**Nepal probing Indian gangster's media ties**

KATHMANDU: Nepal has said it is 'working on' India's request to investigate possible links between one of its private media group and New Delhi's most-wanted fugitive Dawood Ibrahim. "We are working on this after India had made a request in this regard," Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said. The Indian Government had said earlier this month that it had made the request as part of an 'ongoing cooperation' with Nepal on issues related to terrorism. The Nepalese prime minister, however, declined to give a specific time-frame for the investigation.

Newindpress.com, 4 September 2004

**'Hathiramji Mutt official is kingpin in land scam'**

TIRUPATI: Even as the police arrested four persons in the multi-crore Hathiramji Mutt land scam, vigilance and enforcement wing sleuths stepped in to get at the bottom of the scam. In all, over 200 acres out of the 600 acres owned by the Mutt had been gobbled up by private persons with the help of some of the Mutt staff. Investigation by the police revealed that the kingpin was Mutt superintendent B Ramaiah. Disclosing the details at a press

conference, Superintendent of Police VV Gopalakrishna said that Ramaiah had created official seal of the Mutt and facsimile seal signature of Mahant Prayagadass and subsequently created fake documents in several names. Police seized several incriminating documents from him.

Newindpress.com, 4 September 2004

**Fake liquor making unit unearthed**

RAICHUR: The excise officials here raided a house in Mochiwada locality and unearthed a fake liquor manufacturing unit. They also seized liquor worth Rs.1 lakh on Thursday night. The officials found that the owner of the house Arunkumar, who runs bars in the city, used to manufacture liquor along with spirit. The unit is located in such a place which cannot be identified easily as it is between two houses in a low-lying area. It could be entered only through a hole. Bottles, spirit, original choice labels and beer bottles were found along with bottle mouth-cover ceiling machines and seals of companies.

The Assam Tribune, 4 September 2004

**Spurious drugs exposing people to health hazards**

GUWAHATI, Sept 3 – The unabated circulation of hazardous and spurious drugs in the country, including the North-East, has exposed the unsuspecting public to grave health hazards. What is compounding the situation is that the authorities are yet to take a serious view of the matter and initiate firm steps to check the menace. “The role of many pharmaceutical companies in promoting hazardous and spurious drugs has been established, but there has hardly been any legal action on the erring firms,” the Centre of Medical and Sales Representatives’ Union (North Eastern Region) that staged a demonstration against the promotion and marketing of such drugs in the city today, said. Citing a specific instance, the union said a banned drug Letovel, marketed by the Indian major Sun Pharmaceuticals Ltd., is still available in the market. “Letovel, which is an oral anti-cancer drug, is being marketed in the country for treatment of infertility among women,” union president BB Das said, adding that in the process the drug was tried on hundreds of patients across the country. The marketing for Letovel was done without the approval of the Drugs Controller General of

India, which is mandatory before commencing with any clinical trial. “Despite the fact that the Sun Pharmaceutical indulged in illegal promotion and sale of the drug and used scores of women as guinea pigs, concrete legal action still eludes it,” Das said. The union said that another reason behind the thriving trade in hazardous drugs was the involvement of a section of unscrupulous doctors in the business, who had no qualms about prescribing such unsafe medicines in spite of being aware of their harmful consequences. As part of its campaign against hazardous and spurious drugs and Sun Pharmaceuticals in particular, the union today observed nationwide demonstrations.

Newindpress.com, 6 September 2004

**Kingpin of ganja smuggling gang held**

KAKINADA: Excise and prohibition department enforcement wing officials on Sunday arrested kingpin of ganja smuggling gang Geddada Gangachalam and seized 34 bags of the narcotic substance worth Rs.10 lakh at Nimmachettubanda village of Chavidikot Panchayat in Maredumilli Mandal. The officials also arrested P.Bhushamma who kept the ganja bags at his house. Excise enforcement Circle inspector NV Ramanacharyulu told this website’s newspaper that when the accused Gangachalam, who was avoding excise officials for a long time, along with other three persons had been waiting for lorry for exporting ganja to Pune, the enforcement officials caught him on the spot. However, three others escaped from the place. Ramanacharyulu said that the accused was a coolie with a ganja smuggler A.Krishna Reddy nine years ago. Later he worked as a commission agent to Krishna Reddy and other smugglers. The accused was presented before Rampachodavaram sub-divisional magistrate who sent him for 15 days remand.

Newindpress.com, 6 September 2004

**Old stamp paper sale racket busted**

NELLORE: The Nellore police busted a racket of sale of old stamp papers in the town, arrested four persons and produced them in the court on Saturday. Speaking to mediapersons here on Sunday Superintendent of Police B Sivadhar Reddy said the police laid a trap and taken into custody broker N Prakasha Rao and stamp vendor Rapina Ramanamma at the district court premises here for selling stamp

papers released in 1991. Based on the information furnished by them the police also arrested stamp vendors Anam Ratnaiah and Gudur Nagaraju and seized stamp papers worth Rs 1 lakh. The SP revealed that the accused used to sell the old stamp papers by collecting a premium of Rs 50 to Rs 100 over the face value, depending on the demand. Further, the stamp vendors were selling the stamp papers on the court premises in violation of rules. The police registered a case under Sec 69 of Indian Stamp Act against the accused and sent them to district Central jail following the court remanding them into custody up to September 17. He said two other accused in the case were still absconding. The SP appealed to people not to purchase the old stamp papers, which are invalid under the present regulations.

Times of India, 6 September 2004

**Illegal telephone exchange unearthed at Nanakpura**

NANAKPURA: The crime branch on Sunday unearthed an illegal telephone exchange at Nanakpura in southwest Delhi. The exchange was being run by three men, who have been arrested, in the garb of a call centre. The police raided the exchange on Sunday along with officials of DoT, VSNL and MTNL. According to the police, 30 ISDN (Integrated Subscribers Digital Network) lines had been installed by the accused on the office premises. The lines were hired by a firm called Rainbow Christian Academy which claimed to be a call centre. "An inquiry by MTNL revealed that close to 2.5 lakh calls were made from these lines which were activated only on August 4. We then registered a case of cheating and arrested the accused," said deputy commissioner of police (crime branch) Tajendra Luthra.

The Hindu, 6 September 2004

**Three arrested for extortion**

NEW DELHI, SEPT 5. Three persons allegedly involved in cases of extortion, kidnapping for ransom and murder, were arrested from Dwarka by the Special Staff of the South-West Delhi police on Sunday. A Chinese pistol, a revolver made in the United States and a country-made firearm were recovered from their possession. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West Delhi), Deependra Pathak, the Special

Staff had information that some criminals were extorting money from cable operators across the Capital. A team comprising Sub-Inspectors Raj Kumar and Ravinder Tyagi contacted the cable operators and requested them to reveal whether they were being threatened by any extortionist. But the terrified cable operators refused to divulge anything about the criminals. However, the police carried on their surveillance and zeroed in on a criminal from Bahadurgarh in Haryana, Manoj Rathi, who along with his gang members was committing extortions, kidnapping for ransom and carjacking.

The Hindu, 6 September 2004

**MLC shot dead**

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 5. The Uttar Pradesh Samajwadi Party MLC, Ajit Singh, and a 12-year-old boy were killed when unidentified persons opened fire at the lawmaker's birthday party in a hotel in Unnao late last night. — PTI

The Hindu, 8 September 2004

**Eight arrested in robbery case**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7. Eight alleged criminals, who robbed a businessman of expensive auto parts worth lakhs at Alipur last month, have been arrested by the North-West Delhi police at Dabri in South-West Delhi and Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh. A part of the stolen articles was recovered during the operation. On the night of August 28, nine criminals barged into a godown of Daewoo automobile parts and at gunpoint overpowered the security guards deployed there. The culprits, who had gone to the godown in an Eicher Canter and a Maruti Zen car, uploaded the automobile parts in the Canter and fled from the scene after tying up the hands and legs of the security guards. During the probe, the police zeroed in on two suspects, Arshad Ali and Niamuddin. The two were rounded up and questioned. During interrogation, they confessed to their involvement in the Alipur godown dacoity. At their instance, the police arrested other accused, Rakam Singh Gujjar, Jai Bharat Singh, Nawab Singh, Rakesh Balmik and Manphool Singh. They disclosed that they had sold the looted items to Gurinder Singh Sahni, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar, upon which the police raided his place and arrested him. They recovered the stolen articles worth Rs. 3.87 lakhs from his possession. The police said they have seized

the Maruti Zen and the Canter used in the dacoity.

The Hindu, 8 September 2004

**Contract killers nabbed**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7. Seven people allegedly involved in over 30 cases of contract killing, attempt-to-murder, dacoity and robbery in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have been arrested from the Loni border by the Special Cell of the Delhi police. Five country-made firearms and live cartridges are alleged to have been recovered from their possession. The Special Cell recently received a tip-off that some criminals from Uttar Pradesh would come to Apsara Chowk on the Loni border to meet their accomplice on Monday. Subsequently, a trap was laid and two of the suspects arrested. They were identified as Sanjay Garg and Meharuddin. At their instance, the police raided Mahavir Jayanti Park and arrested five of their accomplices, Mohammad Riyazuddin, Rizwan, Ismail, Dilshad and Farahim. During interrogation, they revealed that Sanjay Garg was the leader of the gang and was previously involved in six cases of murder and attempt-to-murder. In February last year, he along with his accomplices allegedly shot dead Manoj Kasana, the nephew of Samajwadi Party MLA, Madan Bhaiya, because he used to tease Sanjay's girlfriend. Meharuddin got initiated into the world of crime in 1998 and was previously involved in 15 cases of attempt-to-murder, dacoity and the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. He is a registered bad character of Gulavati police station of Bukandshahr. The accused disclosed that on September 2 this year, they shot down Rajesh Choudhary, the owner of one Delhi Bakery in Meerut against a contract of Rs. 2 lakhs given to them by Sariq. This February, they entered one Deepika Exports at Meerut and took away brass items worth Rs. 13 lakhs. Around three years ago, they had targeted the same company and had fled with brass items worth Rs. 22 lakhs.

The Hindu, 8 September 2004

**Currency racket smashed**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7 Three young men allegedly engaged in printing and circulation of counterfeit currency notes across the Capital for the past several months were arrested by officers of the Crime Branch of the Delhi

police at Rohini here over the week-end. The police claim to have recovered a scanner, a computer, a printer and fake currency notes worth Rs. 1.3 lakhs from them. According to the police, they received a tip-off that some people were printing fake currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination in a house at Avantika in Rohini. Further probe revealed that the culprits were actually scanning the original currency notes using a computer. The police sent a decoy to strike a deal with one of the suspects, later identified as Sunil. The suspect agreed to supply currency notes of 100 denomination near Rameshwar Sweets at Prashant Vihar. Accordingly, a trap was laid and two of the suspects, Sunil and Pradeep, while they were handing over currency notes worth Rs. 1,500 to the decoy. At their instance, the police raided a house at Avantika and arrested the gang head, Kamal Kishore. From there, they recovered currency notes worth Rs. 1.3 lakhs, 85 unfinished notes, the computer, scanner and the printer. During interrogation, Kamal disclosed that he did his graduation from Delhi University and was presently giving tuitions to Class X and Class XII students.

The Hindu, 8 September 2004

**Remanded**

MUMBAI, SEPT. 7. The main accused in the Mumbai child sexual abuse case, John Allan Waters, was today remanded to police custody till September 14. He was extradited from the U.S. in connection with the case registered against him in 2001. — PTI

Indian Express, 9 September 2004

**Chargesheet against six accused in Nadia case**

MUMBAI: Railway police have filed a chargesheet against six accused in the Mumbai Central Court in connection with the accidental death of upcoming film director Nadia Khan, who was assisting noted director Kaizad Gustad in a film. Of the six accused, Gustad and his associates Ashish Udeshi and Hadley d'Mello have been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Three others — Worli police station Sub-Inspector Nadvatkar, Mahalaxmi station Superintendent C.G. Ashokan and Government Railway Police Constable Darshana Vaitee — have been charged with destroying evidence and shielding offenders.

Nadia, 27, had been knocked down by a speeding local train near Mahalaxmi railway station on May 25 while she was shooting for Kaizad Gustad's film Mumbai Central. However, Udeshi and d'Mello told police that she had been hit by a car on the road. The chargesheet was filed in Mumbai Central railway court on August 30.

The Hindu, 9 September 2004

**Fake admission racket busted**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8. Three persons have been arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi police for allegedly duping over a dozen young men in the name of providing them admission in reputed management institutions. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (EOW), K.K. Vyas, said a complaint was received in the first week of August about a gang duping people in the name of promising them admission to Symbiosis Institute of Management in Pune and K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research in Mumbai. Following investigations by a team jointly headed by three sub-inspectors, the police first arrested Bobby Saxena, a resident of Vivek Vihar in East Delhi, and then Deepak Chatterjee alias Deepak Kashyap, a Ghaziabad resident. Raj Kumar Soni of Karol Bagh was the last one to be arrested. Investigations revealed that Deepak, a science graduate from Delhi University, used to entice people -- he used to approach them with the help of acquaintances -- into paying huge sums of money for getting admissions to premier institutes. About a dozen aspirants from Ludhiana in Punjab had paid up a total of Rs. 63.5 lakhs in cash and Rs. 16.5 lakhs in the form of demand drafts to the accused in the month of March and April.

The Hindu, 9 September 2004

**Three arrested, burglaries solved**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8. Three persons have been arrested by the Special Staff of the South Delhi police for allegedly committing burglaries in many houses in Lodhi Colony and Sarojini Nagar. The police have recovered stolen jewellery worth Rs. 2 lakhs and other articles from the accused. According to the police, some incidents of burglary in government colonies in South and South-West Delhi had occurred this past August following which the Special Staff were entrusted with

the task of identifying the gang. Following a tip-off, a team, led by Inspector Rajender Singh, laid a trap at CGO Complex on Tuesday. Around 2 p.m., two suspects appeared on the scene on a motorcycle and were apprehended. Two knives were recovered from the duo, identified as Pradeep (22) and Suresh (24). At their instance, the police arrested their third associate Sohanpal (28) near Sai Baba Mandir where he had gone to dispose of stolen property. Subsequently, the police recovered jewellery worth Rs. 2 lakhs, Rs. 7,000 in cash and house-breaking equipment from them. Interrogation of the accused revealed that they had met each other in Tihar Central Jail where they were lodged in connection with cases of murder, rape, burglary and theft. Released in November, last year, the trio had formed a gang.

Daily Excelsior, 9 September 2004

**Rs 2.66 lakh cash, gold seized**

**3 inter-State thieves arrested**

JAMMU, Sept 8: City police today arrested three members of an inter-State gang of burglars and recovered from their possession Rs 2.66 lakh cash and a large quantity of other stolen items including gold, television sets and refrigerators. "With the arrests, 40 thefts including the recent burglary in new Style Fabricators have been worked out", DIG Jammu range Farooq Ahmed, who supervised arrests of the gangsters, told the Excelsior tonight, when contacted. Besides Rs 2.66 lakh cash including Rs 1.60 lakh of the cash stolen from New Style Fabricators, police have recovered 24 grams gold, two colour television sets and a refrigerator and a large quantity of other stolen items, the DIG said. SP City (South) Bhupinder Singh was incharge of the team, which arrested the thieves and worked out the thefts, committed in Gandhi Nagar, its surroundings and other areas. Arrested thieves have been identified as Vicky of Nanak Nagar, Mohd Shaffi and Pawan Kumar of Bhatindi, Narwal. Another member of the gang Mohd Saleem was absconding. A hunt has been launched to apprehend him. So far, police have worked out a total of 40 thefts including 15 registered thefts with the arrests. Possibility of some more thefts getting worked out during sustained questioning of the thieves is not ruled out. A case against the thieves has been registered for further investigations. Police have also arrested a prime accused in Sanjay

Nagar murder case. He has been identified as Rashpal.

he Himalayan Times, 10 September 2004

**Sobhraj Case: Interpol documents evidences**

KATHMANDU: At a time when international serial killer Charles Sobhraj Gurmukh is preparing to challenge the Kathmandu District Court's (KDC) verdict which convicted him in a murder case, the KDC has recognised the documents provided by Interpol and diplomatic missions as evidence. The KDC, in its full text of judgement prepared recently, said that related documents from Interpol and diplomatic missions can be considered as evidence. "Since these authorities would not provide fake documents, there was no reason to be suspicious," the full text of the judgement passed by judge Bishowmbhar Prasad Shrestha said. The KDC did not recognise Sobhraj's lawyers plea as they had argued that the court should not recognise the documents prepared abroad. The court said the US Embassy, New Delhi and Interpol, Wellington had written to Inspector General of Police Shyam Bhakta Thapa regarding Sobhraj's statement recorded in India in 1975 where he had confessed to entering Nepal in 1975. But during the KDC interrogation, Sobhraj said that he had never come to Kathmandu before 2003. The court also took Sobhraj's interview published in a book titled *The Life and Crimes of Charles Sobhraj* written by Richard Neville and Julie Clarke in 1979 as evidence.

The Hindu, 10 September 2004

**Wife of Punjab cop held in militant's escape case**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 9. The wife of a Punjab police assistant sub-inspector (ASI), who allegedly helped a Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) militant escape from police custody from near Bara Hindu Rao Hospital in North Delhi on August 23, was arrested by the Special Cell on Tuesday. She was produced in a Tis Hazari court today which remanded her to nine-day police custody. According to the police, Kulwant Kaur, wife of ASI Karam Singh, allegedly used to meet the KCF militant, Gursewak, at Nabha Jail on a regular basis. Investigations revealed that a couple of days before he was brought to the Capital for court appearance, Kulwant met him and gave

him around Rs. 3,000 by selling her jewellery. It later came to light that before fleeing, Gursewak had made a telephone call to her from Delhi. The police are now interrogating her to find Gursewak's whereabouts. Meanwhile, they are conducting raids at various places to track him down. Earlier, the Special Cell had arrested Head Constable Raj Kumar, Constables Surender Singh, Bhupender Singh and Gurender Pal of the Punjab police, from whose custody Gursewak had escaped. The police personnel had allegedly conspired with him to let him flee. Gursewak had been charged with sedition and carrying explosives in a case registered at Punjabi Bagh police station in West Delhi in 1998. The case had come up for hearing in the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Yogesh Khanna, at Tis Hazari and he was supposed to appear between August 23 and 26. The four police personnel told the police that they were taking Gursewak to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, as he complained of chest pain, when their vehicle broke down and they had to proceed on foot. On the way, Gursewak fled from the scene "taking advantage of the darkness."

The Times of India, 11 September 2004

**Nigerian gets 4-yr jail for possessing cocaine**

NEW DELHI: A city court on Friday sentenced a Nigerian national to four years' rigorous imprisonment. The convict, Shokambi Anthony, was found guilty of possessing 70 grams of cocaine. Special judge N K Sharma also asked Anthony to pay a fine of Rs 25,000. Anthony was arrested by the narcotics branch of the Delhi police in April last year. On April 15, Anthony, along with three other Nigerian nationals - Emeka, Olayinka and Ikechi - had gathered at a house in Vikapuri. While the police managed to arrest Anthony in the raid, the other three escaped. In a subsequent search, the police recovered cocaine from Anthony's undergarment. Charges were framed under the relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act against him on November 12, 2003. Anthony had alleged that police took US \$ 1,500 from him and when he objected, he was falsely implicate d.

The Times of India, 11 September 2004

**Dacoits shoot, loot, scoot as cops watch (Lalit Kumar)**

NOIDA: Eight armed dacoits killed two men and left six seriously injured in a midnight shootout before they escaped with cash and jewellery worth over Rs 1 lakh from two homes at Raipur in Noida's Sector 126 Institutional Area. During the encounter, which took place around 1.30 am on Thursday, four policemen, who arrived in a police control room (PCR) van, allegedly watched the action passively as they were unarmed. Both the looted houses belong to junior employees of the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority. Five of the injured have been admitted to the intensive care unit at Kailash Hospital. Dr Mahesh Sharma, chairman of the hospital, said: "Yaadram and Prakash, both senior citizens, are in a coma and placed on life support systems. Chances of their survival may not be high. Yaadram's son Prithvi and Prakash's son Madan are also critically injured. And the fifth patient, Mahesh, can also not be declared out of danger yet. All the patients have multiple injuries, with both buckshot and solid bullets embedded in their bodies. The CT-scans of the first two show the presence of 50 to 60 metal pellets inside their bodies." All the patients are currently in a critical state. Meanwhile, Meerut police range deputy inspector general, Chandrika Rai, who visited the scene of the crime, said: "A strong police and para-military force is being deployed in the area to reassure the residents.

Daily Excelsior, 11 September 2004

#### **Timber smuggling in police vehicles**

UDHAMPUR, Sept 10: Forest Department's sleuths have unearthed the practice of smuggling timber in the vehicles of Police Department and seized two such trucks during routine checking at its check posts on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Sources in the Forest Department said that during routine checking of Jammu-bound vehicles at Forest Check Post, just adjoining the Traffic Check Post in Udhampur, the sleuths of the Forest Department signalled a Traffic Police mini-bus bearing registration number JK02N-8537 to stop at around 11 PM yesterday. But the driver of the vehicle speeded up the vehicle instead of halting the same for routine checking. This created suspicion in the mind of the Forest Department sleuths and a Forest Guard Ved Parkash immediately swung into action and managed to stop the vehicle. During checking

the Forest Department sleuths found three slippers of Deodar, almirah of walnut wood and some other furniture of kail wood which were being smuggled to Jammu from Srinagar. The driver of the vehicle Mohd Rafiq was immediately arrested and vehicle alongwith timber was seized. Some days back, the Forest Department had seized a truck of third battalion of Armed Police at Forest Check Post Batote. The truck bearing registration number JK02H-9881 was on its way from Srinagar to Jammu when it was subjected to checking during which 18 CFT deodar wood was recovered which was being smuggled to Jammu. The driver of the vehicle was also arrested and later released on bail.

The Himalayan Times, 11 September 2004

#### **Ama groups hand over two drug pedlars to cops**

Pokhara, September 10: Local Ama (women's) groups have handed over two drug pedlars to police this morning. The Ama group of Naya Bazaar, in Pokhara nabbed Srinath BK for dealing drugs. Police said they recovered brown sugar from him. Another Ama group of Ghari Patan handed over Sunil Tamang for selling drugs. Over a dozen Ama groups have become active in the past two months. A member of Ama group, Shanta Gurung, said in the last two months two dozen drug pedlars had been put behind bars. The women said police inaction to curb the crime forced them to take action. The women complained that even when they provided names and addresses of drug pedlars and medical stores, the police did not take any action. But police said the arrest posed difficulty as only the Department of Medicine Management had the authority to take action. Ama groups, comprising mostly of Gurung women, are from Nadi-pur, Bagar, Deep, Ram Bazaar, Ra-mghat, Naya Bazaar, Banjha Pat-an, Ratna Chowk, Amar Singh Chowk, Phoolbari and Naya Sadak.

The Kashmir Times, 13 September 2004

#### **6 arrested for illicit distillation, 45 kg Lahan destroyed**

JAMMU, Sep 12: During excise raids in different localities and villages Udhampur and Doda district six people district involved in illicit distillation were arrested by the raiding parties of Excise department while 45 kilograms of Lahan was destroyed from the

state land by the raiding party. Those arrested included Dhani Ram son of Kokaan Bhagat resident of village Marr Panchary. The recoveries made from him included 2 bottles of illicit liquor from his home at village Marri Panchary. Another accused arrested has been identified as Rana Dev son of Late Thakur Bhagat resident of Thathri near Kainthagali in Udhampur and the recoveries included 2 bottles of illicit liquor. Raj Kumar son of Naseeb Chand Masha resident of Pathi Udhampur was also arrested and the recoveries made from him included two bottles of illicit liquor. The raids were conducted by Ishtiaq Ahmed Inspector Excise Range Udhampur while the directions in this regard were issued by Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu. Meanwhile, in different raids carried out by NR Mughal inspector Excise Range Doda three more persons were arrested along with some recoveries. The arrested persons were identified as Chain Singh son of Khem Raj resident of Noota Bhaderwah was arrested along with 6 bottles of illicit liquor while Krishn Devi wife of Des Raj resident of Noota Bhaderwah was arrested along with 5 bottles of illicit liquor. Naib Chand son of Sant Ram resident of village Dallian tehsil Bhaderwah was arrested along with 8 bottles of illicit liquor. Besides these additional recoveries of 45 Kg Lahan from the state land was destroyed on spot by the excise raiding parties.

Newindpress.com, 13 September 2004

**Police nabs two notorious gangsters**

CUDDALORE: Two notorious gangsters, who allegedly hijacked several cars after murdering the vehicle drivers, were arrested by the police here on Saturday. The police have recovered a stolen car from them. During a routine vehicle check, Delta-II, a special team, led by Inspector Sundaramurthi have intercepted a car at a village near here. On interrogation the occupants of the vehicle, R. Prakash (23), of Pudupalayam here and P. Vijayselvam (24) of Kaaraamani Kuppam hamlet near here confessed that the vehicle was stolen after they had murdered the driver. Police said the gangsters had also disclosed that they had been involved in several dare devil crimes and car hijackings after murdering cab-drivers. Three days ago, they had hired a taxi-cab owned by Babu of Gandhipuram in Coimbatore. The duo had asked Victor, driver of the vehicle, to drop them at an amusement park situated near

Gopichettipalayam. On their way the gang attacked Victor with an iron rod at Kallar hamlet, killing him instantly. They dumped the body near the village. The gangsters proceeded to Cuddalore after removing the number plate and pasted a 'for registration' sticker on the vehicle claiming that it was a brand new one. Earlier, the gangsters were arrested for stealing a large number of cellophones from a Chennai-based trader. They stole the gadgets after murdering him in Chennai. The accused had obtained bail from a court and were release from prison six months ago. In another bid, they had attacked a taxi driver in Chidambaram and attempted to escape with the car from Sethiathoppe recently. However, the duo failed to hijack the car since they could not move the vehicle from a slushy pit. On Friday night, the gang was caught near Gundusalai here.

Newindpress.com, 13 September 2004

**India reminds Nepal on extradition treaty**

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday reiterated its support to Nepal to combat a raging Maoist insurgency, but also reaffirmed the need for the two countries to have an extradition treaty. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh emphasised the need for an "early conclusion" of the treaty and an agreement of mutual legal assistance on criminal matters between the two neighbours, as his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba concluded a five-day visit here. A joint statement released here said the home secretaries of the two countries would finalise the documents for the agreements when they meet here in October. The agreements were delayed due to "certain" differences, but the issue assumes significance as India has requested Nepal to freeze the assets of Mumbai underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who New Delhi says has operations in Kathmandu.

The Hindu, 14 September 2004

**Kidnapped girl rescued after five years**  
(Devesh K. Pandey)

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13. A 12-year-old girl, who was abducted from her Jehangirpuri house in North-West Delhi about five years ago and was allegedly criminally assaulted and administered hormonal injections by her captors to prepare her for flesh trade in Mumbai, was rescued from Sayeed Nagar in Agra this past weekend. Eight persons were

arrested and another victim was rescued during the operation. The police said the victim was abducted from Jehangirpuri in 1999 apparently by some members of the Beriya community when she was just seven. A case in this regard was registered at the local police station, but the girl was not traced. The Agra police said the other victim was abducted when she was four-years-old. After the abduction, the victims were taken to Sayeed Nagar and kept there in confinement. It is alleged that they were criminally assaulted by the accused. Acting on a tip-off that several minor girls had been kept in confinement to be pushed into prostitution, the Agra police mounted a raid at the hide-out of the accused and rescued two of the victims. Eight people, seven of whom have been identified as Ummeed Singh, his wife, Vimla, Hema, Rekha, Munna and his wife, Sunita, were arrested from the spot. Investigations revealed that one of the girls had been abducted from Jehangirpuri. Subsequently, her father was traced by the police. During questioning, the victims told the police that their captors used to regularly administer injections to them. The accused revealed that they were hormonal injections, which were administered for their rapid growth so that they could be pushed into prostitution. They further disclosed that they were planning to sell the girls to pimps in Mumbai. The police suspect that the gang was supplying minor girls to some Mumbai bars as well.

The Hindu, 14 September 2004

#### **Extortionists held**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13. Four persons, who were allegedly trying to extort Rs. 6 lakhs from a businessman, have been arrested by the North-West Delhi police. According to the police, the businessman, Abhilash Goel, received a letter in which the culprits demanded Rs. 6 lakhs as protection amount. They directed Mr. Goel to send the money through his employee, Ratan Tali. Mr. Goel then received a phone call in which the caller asked him to deliver the money at Bhopura. Suspecting that Ratan was involved in the extortion bid, the police interrogated him. He broke down and confessed to having conspired with his friends, Virender Choudhary, Ram Kirpal and Kari Nadab, to extort money from Mr. Goel.

The Hindu, 14 September 2004

#### **Betting racket busted**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13. Three alleged bookies, who were running a racket in betting on the cricket match between India and Kenya, were arrested from Paschim Vihar in West Delhi by the Inter-State Cell of the Crime Branch on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Neeraj Sehgal, Puneet Sharma and Brij Mohan. The police recovered four mobile phones, recorder, earphone, a television and account books from their possession. They said the accused had accepted the stake amount to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs from punters.

Newindpress.com, 14 September 2004

#### **CBI charges two doctors in stamp paper scam**

NEW DELHI: Two doctors of a Bangalore state-run hospital have been formally charged for exaggerating the illness of Abdul Karim Telgi, the mastermind of the multimillion-rupee fake stamp paper scam, to allow him to get bail. K.N. Channakeshava and K.H. Jananendrappa are currently in judicial custody for allegedly receiving illegal gratification and for abuse of their official position, the Central Bureau of Investigation said here Monday. "The two doctors issued medical certificates which allowed Telgi to obtain bail in fake stamp paper cases being tried in different courts. Investigations have revealed the doctors received a bribe of Rs.500,000 on two occasions," a CBI spokesman said. The doctors held senior positions in Bangalore's Victoria Hospital and had issued medical certificates that highlighted about serious medical condition of Telgi and that he suffered from diabetes. "The medical certificates were given twice, first in June and then in September of 2002 to Telgi by flouting procedures for issuing such documents. Both doctors were arrested the same year," the official said. Investigations have also revealed that Channakeshava had repaid a loan of about Rs.100,000 taken by him for the purchase of a second-hand car and that he had deposited Rs.50,000 in cash in his bank account soon after allegedly receiving the bribe.

Newindpress.com, 14 September 2004

#### **Illegal lotteries seized**

PALAKKAD: Illegal lottery tickets worth Rs 10 crore were seized in raids on a wholesale

lottery agency in Pudussery on Monday. The lotteries belonged to the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya. These tickets violated the rules of the Central Lottery Regulation Act and hence they were seized, said an official of the Lotteries Department. The lotteries were intended to be sold in other states also.

Newindpress.com, 15 September 2004

#### **Illegal lottery tickets seized**

PALAKKAD: Illegal lottery tickets worth Rs 5 crore were seized from the godown of a lottery agency at Yakkara here on Tuesday in raids conducted by the police and the District Lottery Office authorities. The office was sealed following the raid. Sources said the lottery tickets violated the provisions of the Central Lottery Regulation Act. The godown belonged to Bhuvan Lottery Agency. Two persons have been arrested in this connection. Their names were given as Rajinder and Bimal Kumar, the owner and manager respectively of the agency. The lottery belonged to states of Bhutan, AP and Sikkim. Meanwhile, the sealed lottery agency of A.M.Traders in Pudussery, from where Rs 10 crore-worth of illegal tickets were seized, will be examined in the presence of the officials of the Dept of Lotteries and the police on Thursday.

The Hindu, 15 September 2004

#### **Fake note racket busted**

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14. A four-member gang allegedly making and circulating counterfeit currency notes was busted by the Hyderabad police Task Force (South) team on Tuesday. As many as 8,800 fake currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination, 10 'incomplete' bundles, a computer with colour printer and other material were seized at their instance. The arrested were so perfect in the technique of making fake currency that none of the bank staff could distinguish when some notes were presented for "testing," the Additional Commissioner of Police, A.K. Khan, told a press conference. Describing the modus operandi, he said after scanning an original note through a computer, the accused used to store images in the hard disk. Later, they would take colour printouts of two sides of the note on separate papers and join them using high quality glue and a glass top. To ensure that a silver line was printed on the

note, they would press a silver roll on the notes making it difficult to distinguish from a genuine one, Mr. Khan elaborated. They were also using a specially made dye to emboss the transparent Gandhi picture on the open space of Rs. 100 note. The arrested were a Unani doctor, Khaled Masiuddin (35) of Edibazar, a suitcase maker, Mohd. Heera (32) of Bihar, a screen printer, Ratnala Krishna (28), and a realtor, Dugge Israel (30), of Mah abubnagar. The raid was conducted by Inspector, M.N. Ghori, Sub-Inspectors -- S. Mohan Kumar, Syed Fayaz, B. Koteswar Rao, S. Mohan Kumar and Md. Tanveer Ahmed Khan.

The Hindu, 15 September 2004

#### **Fighting drugs, across Asia** (Ramya Kannan)

CHENNAI, SEPT. 14. From five countries they came, with the determination to take forward their war against drug abuse. A group of social workers from Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Malaysia and India met here to share notes, learn from one another's experiences, draw emotional support and strategise to strengthen their respective drug addiction programmes. From their accounts, it is clear that such abuse is no longer an isolated occurrence. With injecting drug-users, especially, the prospect of contracting HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), sexually transmitted diseases and strains of hepatitis is especially alarming. "Drug addiction is no longer an individual issue. It has to be handled along with other problems. Timely treatment for opportunistic infections is important, as is giving addicts a place to turn to when all else fails," says Eldred Tellis, regional programme manager (Asia) of DOH International, a global non-governmental organisation (NGO) involved in drug rehabilitation. The training programme was organised here by the TT. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, which has had a long and distinguished record in the field. The event was sponsored by DOH International and the European Commission, Shanthi Ranganathan, honorary secretary of the Foundation, said. Mr. Tellis said: "In all these countries, the problem of addiction is huge and the intervention is not up to scale. There is need for much more work to be done in all the nations."

Daily Excelsior, 16 September 2004

#### **Two Nigerians disappear before raid 3 brothers held with 1.5 lakh US dollars**

JAMMU, Sept 15: Mystery shrouded disappearance of two Nigerians before a police raid in a hotel at Jewel Chowk last night and recoveries of 1.5 lakh American dollars, original or fake and arrest of three brothers from the hotel. Senior police officers were tight-lipped over the arrests and recoveries. There was no police version in the case fueling speculations. Reliable sources said a team of Special Operations Group (SOG) led by a DySP carried out a raid in Room No. 24 at Sant Lodge in Sant Market, Jewel Chowk at about 8.30 pm last night on a specific input given by the Intelligence Bureau (IB). A team of IB was also camping in the City to co-ordinate the raid and recoveries of the dollars. About half an hour before the police raid, two Nigerians, who were staying in the hotel since August 31, managed to escape. From the hotel record, their identity was established as Ibrahim Chijoke and Patrick Okonkudbe, residents of Lane 5, Omtisha Street, Nigeria. The SOG team recovered a bag from the hotel which contained 1.5 lakh American dollars, two bottles of chemical, one candle, some clothes and documents. The SOG team arrested three brothers in connection with the recoveries. They have been identified as Naresh Singh, Bhanu Partap Singh and Pushpinder Singh sons of Surinder Singh, a resident of Jalebi Morh, Nai Basti, Subash Nagar. Surinder Singh, a retired Subedar, runs a ready-made shop. SOG teams and police parties carried out raids in some hotels in the City and outskirts in search of Nigerian nationals but they remained untraced.

The Assam Tribune, 16 September 2004

**Guwahati 'transit point' for drug traffickers** (R Dutta Choudhury)

GUWAHATI, Sept 15 – Two major hauls of heroin by the Assam Police in the city within a span of one week once again proved that Guwahati is being used by the drug traffickers as a transit point to transport narcotics to other parts of India and even abroad. Talking to The Assam Tribune, Inspector General of Police (Criminal Investigation Department) SP Kar said that within the span of a week, police recovered one kilogram and 500 grams of superfine heroin in two separate incidents and the value of one kg of such quality of the narcotics is estimated at about Rs 1 crore on the international market. He said that the persons involved in trafficking are young and

they were also trying to explore the market in Guwahati. However, on the positive side, Kar pointed out that Guwahati is mainly being used as a transit route as not many people are using such drugs in Assam, mainly because of the cost involved. He also admitted that it is difficult for the police to nab people involved in trafficking of heroin and brown sugar without pinpointed information and to check such trafficking, efforts are on by the Assam Police to improve its intelligence network. During investigation, police found that the narcotics seized recently were brought from Manipur.

Kashmir Times, 18 September 2004

**US dollars linked to hawala racket  
2 Jammu businessmen freed**

KT NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Sep 17: Two Jammu based traders arrested in connection with sensational US dollar hawala racket were released by the Special Operation Group (SOG) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) sleuths today. They were picked up from their shop at Panjbakhter road on Wednesday evening by the SOG and IB sleuths. After their interrogation for at least 36 hours they were released today. The traders are - Munish and Ashish Anand, owners of 'Anand Brothers'- cloth merchant Panjbakhtar road. Three accused arrested on Tuesday were still in the custody of SOG sleuths and some more arrests are likely to be made within a couple of days, sources said. Turce accused Bhanu Partap Singh, Pushpinder Singh and Naresh arrested from Sant Hotel on Tuesday night alongwith 1.50 lakh dollars are subjected to sustained interrogation to expose the hawala racket. Various teams have been fanned out in separate areas in order to arrest the absconding Nigerian couple.

Newindpress.com, 18 September 2004

**Telgi confession drama ensues at Pune in tune with plot**

BANGALORE: Much of the Abdul Kareem Telgi confession drama has been speckled with his different lawyers making divergent and confusing statements about their client's confessional intentions. The replay now continues with the alleged kingpin of the fake stamp paper scam now at a different venue with a different lawyer. The first drama which took place early this year was staged in Bangalore. Now the venue has been shifted to

Pune, where Telgi is lodged in jail. All characters except Telgi's Bangalore counsel M.T. Nanaiah are present and, once again, his counsel in New Delhi, Abdul Rehman, plays the key role. It was in early January that Rehman hit headlines with the announcement that Telgi wanted to make a confession and expose "big sharks" in the biggest scam to hit the country. Just before Rehman met Telgi in Bangalore Central Prison prior to making the controversial announcement, however, Nanaiah had got a printed statement signed by Telgi on Jan 2 -- Telgi's withdrawal of the vakalatnama in the name of Rehman. However, Rehman managed to get his vakalatnama 'refreshed' and came out with a statement of Telgi -- handwritten by the scamster -- which expressed Telgi's desire to confess and come clean. The second chapter of the drama unfolded when StampIT filed an application before the Special Court seeking Telgi's custody for interrogation.

The Hindu, 18 September 2004

**Fake currency racket busted**

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17. An inter-district fake currency racket was busted by the Cyberabad police with the arrest of five persons, including a woman, here on Friday. The Andhra Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Act would be invoked against all the five accused, the Police Commissioner, M. Mahender Reddy, told a press conference. Counterfeit currency notes of various denominations, including that of Rs. 1,000, all valued at Rs. 5,17,000, a computer with scanner, printer and screen-printing material were also seized from them.

The Hindu, 18 September 2004

**Six held; 48 passports seized**

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17. The Sultanbazar police, on Friday busted a fake emigration certificate racket with the arrest of six persons. Forty-eight genuine passports, several fake rubber stamps and fabricated documents were seized from them, a press release said. A police party, led by Inspector, K. Goverdhan Reddy, rounded up a native of Rayachoti, Shaik Anwar Hussain (25), at Osmania Medical College, Kothi, while moving under suspicious circumstances. As many as 15 passports and fake rubbers stamps were found in his handbag. On persistent questioning, he said that he had collected passports of persons

hailing from his native village and intending to go to Gulf countries for work. Hussain used to "help them out in completing formalities relating to emigration stamping" on payment of some commission. Based on his confession, five of his accomplices -- Reddaiah (21) of Cuddapah, Shaik Saifullah (38), Syed Md. Qayyum (32), K. Satyanandam (44) and Ch. Prasad (42) -- were picked up from different parts of the city. Some more passports were collected from them. Two other accused are still at large.

The Hindu, 18 September 2004

**Four held on kidnapping charge**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 17. Four persons, who had been allegedly committing kidnapping and robbery donning Delhi police uniform, were arrested following an encounter with the Special Staff at Vasant Kunj in South-West Delhi this Thursday. The police recovered, a pistol and a revolver of the United States-make and a country-made firearm along with live cartridges from their possession. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West Delhi), Deependra Pathak, the Special Staff had information that a desperate criminal, Narender Bisht, who served 13 years of imprisonment for his involvement in robbery and dacoity cases, had again started committing crime after being released from jail this March. His accomplices were identified as Pankaj, a registered bad character of Paschim Vihar police station and a life convict in a triple murder case of Punjabi Bagh, Nikhlesh Mishra, registered bad character of Moti Nagar police station, Ravi, Sandeep and Anil. On Thursday, the Special Staff received a tip-off that Narender and his accomplices would come to Vasant Lok to commit a robbery. Subsequently, a police team laid a trap near a Vasant Kunj flyover. The police spotted four of the suspects moving on two motorcycles. The police team tried to intercept them but the suspects opened fire. However, the police team managed to intercept the motorcycles and asked the culprits to surrender. The suspects fired another round, upon which ASI Charan Singh also fired at them and overpowered one of the culprits, later identified as the gang leader, Narender. Sub-Inspectors Raj Kumar and Ravinder Tyagi also fired at the culprits and apprehended two of them, Sandeep and Suresh, whereas the fourth one, later identified

as Anil, was overpowered by ASI Nirakar and Head Constable Bachchu Singh.

Newindpress.com, 18 September 2004

**Fake lottery: One held in raids**

**PALAKKAD:** The district lottery office authorities, in association with the police, on Friday carried out raids in Govindapuram, Gopalapuram, Kozhinjampara, Velanthavalam, Meenakshipuram and Walayar. R.Gowrishankar, a resident of Ashok Nagar in Coimbatore and owner of the Chidambaram agency in Walayar, was arrested. Fake lottery tickets worth Rs 3 lakh were seized from the Walayar office. Cash amounting to Rs 70,000 was also seized in the raids. The raids were held by DSP Tojan P.Cyriac, Walayar SI N.K.Kumaran, district lottery officer K.C.Nirmala Kumari and assistant lottery officer Chandrasenan Nair.

Newindpress.com, 18 September 2004

**Lankan drug retailers make a beeline for city**

**CHENNAI:** Cashing in on the escalating price of heroin in Sri Lanka, drug retailers in the island are making a beeline for Chennai to make some fast buck. It is especially over the past two years that this trend has gained alarming proportions. While in 2003, 10 out of the 50 arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau in the South Zone for heroin smuggling were Sri Lankans, in 2004 it increased to 18. So far, 46 people have been arrested by the NCB this year. As recently as Wednesday, two Sri Lankans were arrested from a T Nagar lodge and five kg of heroin was seized from them. Sherly Anton and Sunimal Fernando could not even speak a single word in English or any Indian language. According to the recently released annual report 2003 of the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB), Sri Lanka, about 97 percent of heroin seized in the island in 2002 was sourced from India. In 2003, it came down to 73 percent. However, when 11,006 people were arrested in the island in 2002, the arrests went up to 12,488 the next year. But seizures during the said period in the island came down from 62 kg to 54 kg. The retail price of heroin, which was Rs 12 lakh in Sri Lanka four years ago, has now touched a whopping Rs 32 lakh, the report says.

The Hindu, 24 September 2004

**NATO turning blind eye to drug boom in Afghanistan: Russia** (Vladimir Radyuhin)

**MOSCOW, SEPT. 23.** The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has accused NATO of turning a blind eye to the booming opium output in Afghanistan. "Unfortunately, they are doing precious little to reduce even a little bit the narcotics threat from Afghanistan," Mr. Putin said on Thursday. "Nothing is happening there at all." Russia has repeatedly held the U.S.-led peace forces responsible for presiding over an unprecedented growth in drug production in Afghanistan since the overthrow of the Taliban regime. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Afghanistan produced 3600 tonnes of opium last year, nine times the amount of drugs it did under the Taliban. Earlier this year Russia's Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, said NATO was happy to ignore the explosion in opium trade in Afghanistan to ensure the loyalty of local warlords. Mr. Putin on Thursday instructed Russia's drug control chief, Viktor Cherkosov, to step up efforts to get the West cooperate in jointly tackling the drug problem in Afghanistan. Western governments "should realise that Afghan narcotics pose a threat to their countries also and stop misleading their own people about this threat," a visibly angry Russian President said in televised remarks. Mr. Cherkosov reported that the Russian narcotics squad seized three tonnes of drugs in a six-day joint operation with Central Asian states.

The Hindu, 24 September 2004

**Passport racket smashed**

**NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23.** One person has been arrested by the IGI Airport police for allegedly duping people in the name of sending them to France on fake passport. He used to procure fake visa stickers from a foreign country. According to the police, five persons, Gurmukh Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Sukhdeep Singh, Sukhjinder Singh and Surjit Singh -- all from various districts of Punjab -- were arrested by the Airport police on May 26 for allegedly travelling on fake documents. All of them were scheduled to go to Paris aboard Aeroflot flight (No. SU-536). They were travelling on Greek Schengen visa. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they had got their visas from one Kuku Bajaj, a resident of Fatehgarh in Punjab. Kuku had charged Rs. 4.5 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs from each

one of them for providing the visas. Four days prior to these arrests, six persons, Amandeep Singh, Amarpreet Singh, Manohar Lal, Harmek Singh, Gurdev Singh and Bhavdeep Singh -- who too were scheduled to take the same flight to Paris -- had been off loaded by the authorities after their Greek Schengen visas appeared to be fake. The visas were sent to the Greek Embassy which confirmed the same in July. In this case, too, the arrested persons named Kuku Bajaj as the man from whom they got the visas. Following investigations, Kuku Bajaj -- whose real name turned out to be Suresh Bajaj -- was arrested from Chandigarh on September 21. He was found to have been involved in six cases of cheating and passport forgery. The police said Suresh used to look for people in Punjab who aspired to go abroad. He procured fake visa stickers from abroad but misled his clients by telling them that they were genuine.

The Hindu, 24 September 2004

**Kidney racket: Police zero in on hospitals**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23. Though the New Delhi police are yet to arrest at least three staffers of the Army Research and Referral Hospital allegedly involved in the kidney transplant racket, they have identified some more hospitals in the Capital where people were fraudulently operated upon for kidney "donations". Following allegations that some staffers of the Research and Referral Hospital were involved in getting people operated for illegal transplant of kidneys, the Army set up a court of inquiry to probe the matter. It is now learnt that they are not handing over the accused persons to the police till their inquiry is complete, owing to which the police fear that their own probe is getting hampered. They think that through these accused, they could have identified more persons involved in the racket. Meanwhile, the police have identified other hospitals across Delhi where they suspect that illegal kidney transplants were being carried out. They have approached the authorities concerned for permission to investigate all the cases. They are also trying to trace the brain behind the racket, Sanjay Singh, who vanished from the scene after the matter became public. The racket was unearthed after a person lodged a complaint with the New Delhi police alleging that his kidney was taken out illegally in the Research and Referral Hospital this February. During

interrogation, those arrested in the case claimed that the gang leader, Sanjay Singh, had links with at least three employees of the Research and Referral Hospital, identified as V.K. Prasad, Rajpal and Nilambar. They further revealed that Sanjay Singh had also sent some people to a Mumbai naval hospital for illegal kidney transplant.

The Hindu, 25 September 2004

**Ticket racket smashed**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. Four persons, including a former railway employee, were arrested by the Crime Branch of the Delhi police on Thursday on charges of selling forged railway tickets. Over 100 such tickets and forged stamps were recovered from their possession. Acting on a complaint by the Travel Ticket Examiner of Old Delhi railway station that a person, identified as Ram Babu, tried to board the Satyagrah Express on a forged ticket, the police rounded him up for questioning. He revealed that he had bought the ticket at half its price from Rajinder Mandal, a resident of Jagatpuri. The police mounted a raid at Rajinder's residence and arrested him after 52 blank railway tickets and stamps of two railway junction offices were recovered from his possession. At his instance, the police recovered 20 more fake tickets and arrested his accomplices, Pyare Lal and Dhoop Nath, a quack. Over 33 fake railway tickets were recovered from them. During interrogation, Rajinder revealed that he earlier worked as a helper with the Indian Railways at Ambala. In 1990, he came across a ticket examiner named Diwan Singh, who got him initiated into selling forged tickets. Rajinder was dismissed on charges of selling fake tickets in 1994, after which he roped in Ram Babu, Pyare Lal and Dhoop Nath and again started selling forged railway tickets at half the original price. Rajinder revealed that the tickets recovered from him had been supplied by Diwan Singh, who passed away recently. While the police have also arrested the fourth accused, Ram Babu, they are trying to trace the printing unit where the tickets had been printed.

The Hindu, 25 September 2004

**Kohli extradition case posted for October 1**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. A Delhi court today fixed October 1 as the date for recording of evidence in the extradition proceedings to

deport Maninder Singh Kohli, charged with raping and murdering British teenager Hannah Foster to Britain to face trial there. The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Ravinder Dudeja, will record the statement of a senior officer of the Ministry. Mr. Dudeja initiated the extradition proceedings on September 10 on a request by the Ministry which had earlier got a call for extradition of the accused person from the British police and issued a notice to the Tihar Jail Superintendent here on an application by the accused, alleging that the jail authorities were ill-treating him and keeping him with criminals. Kohli urged the court to direct the jail authorities to keep him in a B-class cell. The Magistrate will take his application for hearing on October 1. He later extended his judicial remand till that date. Counsel for the Ministry, A.K. Wali and Navin Kumar Matta, had during the last hearing on September 10 submitted certain papers to the Magistrate informing him that the Ministry wanted extradition of the accused to Britain on the basis of the documents made available to it by police of that country. Kohli was brought here on September 10 on a production warrant issued by the ACMM. He was arrested on July 15 at Kalimpong in Darjeeling in West Bengal and was later lodged in Chandigarh jail in connection with another case there.

The Hindu, 27 September 2004

**Rectified spirit seized, two held**

PONDICHERRY, SEPT. 26. The Excise department's flying squad arrested two persons belonging to Madukkarai near Pondicherry last night and seized 800 litres of rectified spirit worth Rs. 1.25 lakhs. The rectified spirit in 23 plastic containers was allegedly smuggled from Tamil Nadu. A team on a routine night patrol spotted the plastic cans at a vacant site and two persons who were standing guard at the site were arrested, according to the Deputy Excise Commissioner, R. Anbalagan.

The Hindu, 27 September 2004

**Sand mafia eating away Vaigai's northern bank**

MADURAI, SEPT. 26. For more than a year now, V. Jeyaraman, a retired person, has been fighting hard to save his coconut grove along the Vaigai river bank from the hands of sand mafia. With both the revenue and police officials not showing any interest to put an end

to the illegal activity, Mr. Jeyaraman is now contemplating to seek the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court's intervention. Two groups of sand-miners operating from Viraghanoor and Puliyankulam are simultaneously eating away the western and eastern corners of the over three-acre "2-C" patta land, on the northern bank of the Vaigai. The sand mafia, which reduced the embankment for more than 200 feet, has already felled a handful of coconut trees. As a result, the riverbed has been widened by more than 80 feet in certain pockets after the miners dug the patta land for nearly 20 feet depth. ("2-C" patta land is Government 'poromboke' land authorised by the Revenue department for individuals to take up farming on payment of an annual fee.)

Hindustan Times, 28 September 2004

**97pc heroin in Sri Lanka comes from India**

COLOMBO: There has been an alarming increase in the smuggling of heroin and other dangerous drugs from India into Sri Lanka since 1997. A more recent spurt, since 2001, is particularly disturbing, because India now accounts for 97% of the dangerous drugs seized in the Island. According to Pujith Jayasundara, Director of Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB), India accounted for just 28% of the seizures in 1997. But by 1999, the figure had shot up to 76%. And by 2002, India was accounting for 97% of the seizures. The landing point for drug traffickers from India had also changed during this period. In the 1990s, they were on the mid-western and south western coastline, not far from Colombo. But since the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE in February 2002, the landing points have shifted to the Mannar coast in the North Western part of the island facing Palk Strait. Clearly, the drug traffickers had taken advantage of the lessened surveillance and the scaling down of vigilance on the Mannar coast facing Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar because of the ceasefire agreement. Since the ceasefire agreement and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE, there has also been some confusion as to who is in-charge in the Jaffna peninsula, including Mannar. The Sri Lankan government's agencies and the armed forces do not have the same sense of

responsibility and the same sense of power now, as before.

The Hindu, 28 September 2004

**Six more held, gold worth Rs. 1.75 crores recovered**

COIMBATORE, SEPT. 27. Six more persons were arrested by the city police at 2.30 a.m. today in connection with dacoity at a private finance firm here. Three were arrested on Sunday, and together gold jewellery weighing nearly 31 kg and worth about Rs 1.75 crores were recovered. According to the police, a group of ten dacoits struck the Coimbatore branch of a private finance firm at Oppanakkara Street around 4.30 p.m. on Sunday and decamped with the jewellery. The gangsters had reportedly gained entry into the premises and had threatened the staff at knifepoint besides gagging and tying up the office staff in their chairs before decamping with the booty. Following the incident, the city police immediately organised vehicle checks on all the arterial roads and alerted the check posts and pickets. On instructions from the Commissioner of Police, Ashutosh Shukla, the Deputy Commissioners of Police, P. Nagarajan (Law and Order) and Vidya Kulkarni (Crime and Traffic), conducted vehicle checks. In one of the vehicle checks at a checkpoint at Saravanampatti, a team led by Inspector K. Soundarajan, intercepted three persons who were on board a Mysore-bound bus. Interrogations revealed that the trio were involved in the dacoity, and jewellery worth Rs. 60 lakhs were recovered from them. Based on their confession, the teams rushed to Sathyamangalam and picked up four more persons including the gang leader Rajamanickam alias Mani (46) of Coimbatore and recovered the stolen jewellery.

Newindpress.com, 28 September 2004

**Gang selling cheap liquor held**

HYDERABAD: The city circle excise police on Sunday arrested a city-based gang comprising three members who were involved in selling cheap liquor and seized material worth Rs 5 lakh from them. The culprits -- Manohar Advani, Kiran Kumar and Mahesh used to get corks of premium brands from Mumbai. They would fix the corks to the discarded bottles after filling them with cheap liquor and seal them off perfectly. They were trying to sell these bottles for a higher prices

because of the two dry days -- in view of Ganesh immersion, said prohibition and excise inspector B Jyothi Kiran addressing a press conference.

The Hindu, 29 September 2004

**Sex racket: bail plea rejected**

KOTTAYAM, SEPT. 28. The Kottayam District and Sessions Judge, P. Bhavadass, today rejected the anticipatory bail application moved by one of the accused in the Kottayam sex racket case. The case related to the alleged sexual abuse of a girl who was allegedly trapped into the network with offers of roles in television serials. The police said so far five persons have been identified as having links in the racket. One of the accused, Lata Nair of Mallappally, had moved the anticipatory bail plea both at the district court and at the high court.

The Hindu, 29 September 2004

**LPG racket busted, four arrested**

MYSORE, SEPT. 28. Officials of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies today raided an unauthorised godown of domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders on the outskirts of the city and caught four persons transferring subsidised cooking gas into the cylinders of a commercial LPG supplier. The misuse of LPG came to light after a team of Food and Civil Supplies Department officials, who had received many complaints of LPG scarcity in the district, swooped down on the godown in Vishveshwarnagar II Stage today. They stumbled upon 38 LPG cylinders of Hindustan Petroleum, which supplies gas for domestic purposes at a subsidised rate, and 66 cylinders of a commercial LPG supplier, bearing the ELF mark.

A refilling pipe and a weighing machine were also seized from the godown. The subsidised LPG supplied by public sector companies is sold for Rs. 183 for a 14.2 kg cylinder. But, the commercial LPG cylinders of 17.8 kg is sold for more than Rs. 480 per cylinder.

The Hindu, 29 September 2004

**Lalu busts racket in overload of bulk carriage** (K. Balchand)

PATNA, SEPT. 28. The Railway Minister, Lalu Prasad, said here today that he had busted a major racket of overloading bulk carriage causing revenue loss not only to the Railways

but also the mining sectors besides smuggling of mineral resources out of the country. He told reporters that he had ordered a countrywide inspection of goods trains and 100 rakes were checked in nine railways zones on Monday. The inspection of 60 rakes so far had shown that over 2,121 tonnes of coal, coal dust, iron ore, and manganese had been loaded in excess of what the consignors and consignees had declared. Mr. Lalu Prasad was himself present at Muri in Jharkhand supervising one such raid. The weighing bridge failed, however, with the result that the entire rake had been ordered to be taken to Asansol in West Bengal. The Minister today released a list showing 11 instances in which "big players" indulged in over-loading for their own financial gains in "connivance" with Railway officials and mining authorities. In just one day, 2,221 tonnes in excess of what had been shown in the documents had been transported.

The Assam Tribune, 29 September 2004

#### **4 arrested in drug peddling cases**

GUWAHATI, Sept 28 – That the State capital has become the centre of a thriving drug trade has become evident with the arrest of as many as four persons in the city in a span of 48 hours. One of those arrested is a woman. The series of arrests started day before yesterday when Paltan Bazar police arrested one Nandhe Singh (25), hailing from Ara district of Bihar. He was arrested during a routine check of an ASTC bus that had entered the city from Jorhat. A search of Singh's baggage revealed 20 kg of bhang. Singh was intending to take the stuff to his native Ara. Basistha police yesterday arrested two persons with 600 gm of unidentified narcotic substance near Lokhra at about 4 pm. Rajib Basumatary (40) of Barpeta and Chakra Kalita (42) of Sualkuchi were nabbed while they were transporting the drug from Jalukbari to Beltola on a motorcycle. The vehicle (AS 01 N 3118) was intercepted on the highway following a tip-off. The duo has been sent to police remand for six days while the seized drug has been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for tests. In yet another case today, Paltan Bazar police nabbed a woman from an ASTC bus and seized 12 kg of bhang from her possession. The narcotic was neatly packed in a VIP case. Police said that the woman, Rita Mandal (30), originally from Hojai but residing in the Narengi area of the

city, was planning to take the drug to Siliguri. The woman was arrested.

Newindpress.com, 29 September 2004

#### **India-Bangladesh begin talks on cross-border crimes**

NEW DELHI: India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles on Tuesday began talks here on joint operations against cross-border terrorism, drug trafficking and cattle theft. BSF Director General Ajai Raj Sharma is heading the Indian team at the three-day talks with his Bangladeshi Rifles counterpart Mohammed Jahangir Alam Chowdhury. India will discuss the issue of northeast separatist groups, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), operating camps in Bangladesh and the presence of their top leaders there, official sources said. New Delhi will urge Dhaka to shut down terrorist camps and seek the extradition of over 126 insurgents taking shelter there, the sources said. The alleged infiltration of Bangladeshis into Indian territory for smuggling drugs or stealing cattle will also be discussed. Chowdhury told reporters before the talks that the two sides would discuss the issue of coordinated patrolling.

Newindpress.com, 29 September 2004

#### **Pirated CDs worth Rs 4 lakh seized in raids**

ELURU: In a massive swoop on piracy, the city police conducted raids and seized pirated CDs, audio cassettes and equipment used to make pirated products all worth Rs 4 lakh on Tuesday. The raids which began last night continued on Tuesday. As many as five persons were arrested in this connection. According to Superintendent of Police K Narasimha Murthy, the raids were conducted under the supervision of DSP M Ashokavardhan Reddy and CI K Raghuvendra Reddy. Six teams conducted simultaneous raids on CD and cassette shops in the town. The police seized more than 400 CDs of latest films including Gharshana, Missamma, Yagnam, Nenunnu, Arjun and Gudumba Sankar. The arrested persons were identified as Tumbabttula Divakar, Tota Bhadrachalem, Tumarada Madanmohan, Eluru Gurrappa alias Srinu and Dongala Prasad. They were produced in the court on Tuesday.

Daily Excelsior, 30 September 2004

**One lakh US dollar case  
POTA Court issues arrest warrants against Malik**

JAMMU, Sept 29: In the much publicised one lakh US dollar case, Presiding Officer TADA/POTA Court has issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) supremo, Mohd Yasin Malik for securing his presence in this case. The warrants were also issued against Shamima alias Shazia, who is also facing trial in this case as one of the accused. The case against Malik was registered after Kud Police, on March 23, 2002, during checking, recovered one lakh US dollars from Shamima alias Shazia and Mushtaq Ahmad Dar who were on way from Kathmandu to Srinagar that day. During interrogation of the duo, it was found that they had got the money at Kathmandu from one Altaf Hussain Qadri, Executive Member of Hurriyat Conference, presently in Pakistan. This money was to be handed over to Yasin Malik for carrying militant activities. Malik was arrested next day at Srinagar when he was addressing a press conference. Later, the case was transferred to Crime Branch and after the completion of the investigation, the challan was presented in the POTA court.

The Times of India, 30 September 2004

**CBI starts fresh probe into Madhumita case**  
(Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui)

LUCKNOW: Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) on Wednesday started re-investigations into the Madhumita murder case with special focus on "out of the way help" that Amarmani enjoyed allegedly at the instance of the state government during the probe. The fresh move from the CBI may find a few officials of the state government feeling the heat turned against them for what they did about a year ago. To begin the exercise, the CBI is compiling documents dashed to its top brass from Lucknow about the day when Amarmani was taken to Lucknow district jail on September 21, 2003. In the presence of the CBI, Amarmani was received by dozens of his aides who followed him to the quarantine barrack without any restrictions. Amarmani was spotted using cellphones inside the jail and had a jeep load of beverages, eatables, fruits, water coolers and other luxuries in tow as he entered his cell. The CBI sleuths are set to testify this before the apex court in person.

The investigators have also decided to prepare a report on how jail superintendent Sanjiv Tripathi was suspended for insisting that Amarmani be produced in court much in contrast with the latter's wishes. It was only after the local media carried reports the next day that CBI would look into the circumstances which led to the jail superintendent's suspension, that Tripathi was immediately reinstated within the next 12 hours.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

**HC notice to Pappu Yadav** (K. Balchand)  
PATNA, SEPT. 29. The Patna High Court today issued a showcause notice to the former MP and Rashtriya Janata Dal candidate, Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, who is contesting the Madhepura Lok Sabha byelection, to explain his presence in the Patna Central Jail, Beur, and why action should not be taken against him for the same. A Division Bench directed Mr. Yadav to be present in the court and file his affidavit by October 6.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

**Passport scam: CBI files cases in Tiruchi**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29. The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against five persons and some public servants for issuing Indian passports to Sri Lankan Tamils and others based on false and forged documents with the connivance of certain passport officials in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. The case was registered as a part of special anti-corruption drive launched by the agency today. Searches were conducted at 11 places — six residential and five office premises of the accused. The CBI acted on a complaint by the Ministry of External Affairs that mentioned 146 references in which passports were issued on the basis of forged and false documents. On verification, it was found that in 54 cases allegations were true, the CBI Director, U.S. Mishra, said today. During the searches, it was found that Suruli Rajan, a clerk in the Tiruchi Passport Office, in the last two years had purchased two plots and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees. Similarly, searches in the house of R. Sadagopan, casual labour in RPO, Tiruchi and Pappiah, mail carrier at Koppanapatti post office, Pudukottal district, Tamil Nadu, led to the discovery of a number of filled passport application forms, cash receipts, fake police seals, fake certificates and ration cards.

Searches were continuing when the reports last came in at the CBI headquarters here.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

**Stolen goods worth Rs. 1.05 crores recovered**

VILLUPURAM, SEPT. 29. The Inspector General of Police (North), S.R. Jangid, today handed over recovered items worth over Rs. 1.05 crores, to their owners at a function here. The stolen property from Cuddalore and Villupuram districts was recovered between January and September this year. The split-up of the recovery was: Villupuram - Rs 80.99 lakhs, and, Cuddalore - Rs 25 lakhs. The articles included panchaloha idols worth Rs. 5 lakhs stolen from the Sri Navaneetha Venugopala Swamy temple at Brahmadesam in Villupuram district on January 29. The idols are believed to date back to the 18th century. Another significant recovery was the 270 sovereigns of jewellery, worth about Rs. 12 lakhs, stolen from a house at Avalurpet in Villupuram. Another breakthrough was the seizure of the truck laden with 80 television sets, worth Rs. 12 lakhs, which was hijacked by a gang from the Keelapalayam road junction on the Salem-Ulundurpet Road on January 21. In another success, a car and 42 sovereigns of jewellery stolen after the owner was waylaid at Annamalai Nagar in Chidambaram. These have been recovered intact and restored to the owner.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

**Medicine racket busted, two held**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29. Medicines worth Rs. 1.5 lakhs, which were meant to be supplied only to Government and Army hospitals, were seized by the Operation Cell of the North Delhi police in the past two days. Two persons arrested during the operation revealed that they procured the medicines from retired and serving staff of the Army Medical Corps in Punjab. Acting on a tip-off that a person was indulging in illegal procurement and sale of medicines actually meant for Government hospitals, the Operation Cell mounted a raid and arrested him from Sarai Rohilla this Sunday. He was identified as Kewal Krishan, a resident of Rohini. The police recovered medicines from him which are used as anaesthetic during operations. The police recovered some more medicines from his house. During interrogation, Kewal revealed

that he earlier ran a chemist shop at Naraina in South-West Delhi but later came across some people who gave him the idea to procure medicines from hospitals on cheaper rate and sell them in the open market. At his instance, the police arrested another accused, Mahesh Taneja, a resident of Haryana, from near Bhagirath Palace where he had gone to deliver a medicine consignment to his client on Tuesday.