

Strike hits tourist arrivals to Kashmir

Tribune, 3 June 2009

For Ajay Kumar and his seven colleagues from New Delhi visiting Kashmir, it has been a difficult time since Monday morning with the beginning of the general strike against the death of two women in the Shopian area of south Kashmir. The group, on a week-long tour to the valley, is waiting in a hotel room here for their scheduled departure tomorrow, without having been able to visit many places during the past two days

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090603/j&k.htm>

Complete shutdown in Valley over Shopian deaths

Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 2: Life in Kashmir remained crippled for the second day today due to a strike call given by hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani as nearly 30 persons including four security force personnel were injured in violent clashes during protests over the alleged rape and murder of two women in Shopian district. The Valley observed a complete strike on Geelani's call to protest the alleged rape and murder of the two women who were found dead in a stream in Shopian district on Saturday morning. The hardline leader had called for a strike for yesterday but extended the shutdown call till Wednesday

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Traders exchange items worth Rs 1.90 crore

Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2009

JAMMU, June 2: Trade worth Rs 1.90 crore was conducted on weekly Poonch-Rawlakote route in Poonch district today with 47 trucks exchanging sides from Chakan-Da-Bagh cross-LoC point. Official sources said traders from this part of the State imported items worth Rs 1.30 crore from their counterparts in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Traders of PoK imported items to the tune of Rs 59.59 lakh from this side. Items exported by the traders from this part of the State to PoK include bananas, lemon, onion, kernil, coconut, pineapple, brown cardamom and coriander

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Geelani arrested, clashes continue; Strike enters 6th day

Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 6: Police tonight arrested chairman of hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference from his residence at Hyderpora in Budgam district, where he has been under house arrest for the past two months, official sources said. A police team from Budgam district arrested Geelani from his house at around 10.30 p.m and later handed him over to Srinagar Police, which took the hard line leader to a Government guest house in high security Cheshma Shahi area along the banks of Dal Lake, the sources said

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Police open fire on Shopian protesters

Hindu, 9 June 2009

SRINAGAR: Over 24 people were injured when continuing protests over the rape and

murder of two women of Shopian turned violent in many areas of the Kashmir Valley on Monday. Five civilians were injured, two critically, when police opened fire on a procession at Pinjoora village near Shopian town. The protesters, who were heading for Shopian, were stopped by the police and the CRPF and asked to go back. But the demonstrators raised slogans and surged ahead, and the police resorted to lathicharge and fired teargas shells. As this failed, witnesses said, the security forces opened fire

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/09/stories/2009060957760100.htm>

Shopian march foiled by restrictions in Valley
Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 8: Even as the strike over the alleged rape and murder of two women in Shopian district entered eighth day today, another allegation of rape of a teenage girl and murder of her grandmother by a policeman surfaced from Tangmarg area of Baramulla district in Kashmir today. An elderly woman died after she was allegedly kicked in the belly by a constable of Indian Reserve Police Nazir Ahmad at Khoshipora in Tangmarg this morning following an altercation, officials said. The source of the altercation was alleged rape of the grand daughter of the deceased by the cop some two months ago, they said. "The constable has been arrested and a case of rape and murder has been registered against him in police station Tangmarg," Senior Superintendent of Police Vipluv Kumar told EXCELSIOR.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

3 militants, Major among 5 killed in Kupwara
Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 8: Army has foiled an infiltration bid in Kupwara sector near Line of Control in Kashmir valley, killing three heavily armed militants who were equipped with modern gadgetry to guide them through the treacherous terrain, official sources said here today. An Army Major and soldier were also killed while another soldier was injured in the operation which has been going on for more than three days now, the sources said. An ambush was laid by troops of 23 Punjab of the Army on June 5 in Jaba top area close to the Line of Control following receipt of intelligence inputs that a group of heavily armed militants was trying to sneak into the Valley from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the sources said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Zero crossing for 5th time on LoC
Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2009

JAMMU, June 8: For the fifth time since the launch of cross-LoC bus service on Poonch-Rawlakote route, not a single citizen from this part of divided State was on board the weekly bus service for meeting their divided family members and relatives as more than 3500 civilians still await permits for visiting Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), which have been held up due to delay in mandatory clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs, Pakistan. Official sources told the Excelsior that this was for the fifth time during little about five months of current year that weekly Poonch-Rawlakote bus service left Poonch without any citizen from this part of divided State

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Rs 12.5 cr worth scam in border fencing unearthed

Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2009

JAMMU, June 10: The Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) has unearthed a Rs 12.5 crore worth scam in fencing of International Border (IB) in Jammu sector involving senior Army officers of 5 Engineering Regiment and prominent contractors of Jammu, who were reported to have floated a fictitious firm only to supply sub standard barbed wire. After lodging a First Information Report (FIR) in the scam, the CBI teams today conducted raids in the houses of two contractors of a dummy firm M/s Shiva Steel & Wire Industries, Phase-III Gangyal, at Gandhi Nagar. However, both the contractors, Anil Gupta and Sunil Gupta, had gone underground and couldn't be arrested

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Mirwaiz for CBMs to resolve Kashmir**Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2009**

SRINAGAR, June 10: Chairman of moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umer Farooq today said the Centre should take concrete steps in the State for creating an atmosphere conducive for holding a dialogue for resolution of Kashmir issue with all the stakeholders. "No progress can be made in the dialogue process between India, Pakistan and leadership of Kashmir unless confidence building measures with far reaching consequences are taken to practically change the ground situation which at present is violent and bloody," Mirwaiz told reporters at his Nigeen residence where he is under house arrest

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Probe panel quizzes DIG, FSL team**Tribune, 14 June 2009**

The one-man commission probing the rape-cum-murder case of Asiya (17) and her sister-in-law Nelofar (22) in Shopian has recorded the statement of a top cop, besides questioning the forensic experts who conducted the vaginal swab test of the victims. The Justice Muzzafar Jan Commission, which is being assisted by 14 investigators, questioned DIG (South Kashmir) Rajesh Kumar for nearly four hours, official sources said here today

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090615/j&k.htm>

ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT: Parties seek its revocation for Kashmir resolution**Tribune, 14 June 2009**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram's assurance on considering the revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and reduction of troops from internal security in the state has come at an opportune time. The mainstream political parties, including the NC and the PDP, and also the Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat Conference have been for quite some time deliberating on the need to revoke special powers granted to the security forces and reduce troops strength from internal security in the trouble-torn state. But they have been stretching the demand in respect of their particular stand to ensure peace in the region by ensuring an everlasting solution to the Kashmir problem

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090615/j&k.htm>

Shopian closed for 14th day

Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 13: Shopian town remained closed for the fourteenth consecutive day today as Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA) took out a march here to protest the alleged rape and murder of two women in the South Kashmir district last month, official sources said. Bodies of Neelofar Jan (23) and her 18-year-old sister-in-law Asiya Jan were recovered from a stream in Shopian district on May 30 and the town has not witnessed a day of normalcy since then as allegations of rape before the murder of two women were made by the family of the victims

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09june14/index.html>

Cross-LoC trade to soon get industrial items**Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2009**

JAMMU, June 14: Cross-LoC trade on Poonch-Rawlakote route besides Uri-Muzaffarabad in Kashmir is likely to get a major boost shortly with authorities mooted a proposal for import-export of industrial items on both routes. "On the persistent demand of traders, authorities have, in principle, decided to facilitate import-export of industrial items on two cross-LoC routes. The proposal will be sent to External Affairs Ministry, which has the final authority to add or delete items approved for import-export in consultations with their counterparts in Pakistan", official sources said

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Amarnath yatra begins today**Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2009**

JAMMU, June 14: First batch of pilgrims to Lord Shiva's Amarnath shrine for annual pilgrimage will take off from Bhagwati Nagar base camp in early hours of tomorrow morning for undertaking yatra through shorter Baltal route as traditional Pahalgam track was yet to be cleared of snow at Mahagunus Top and some other areas. About 450 pilgrims, who had reached Nunwan forward base camp in Pahalgam anticipating start of pilgrimage tomorrow, have been sent to Baltal by the authorities as no decision has so far been taken by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) to start yatra through Pahalgam track. A review of track on Pahalgam route is scheduled for June 21

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Two militants killed in Kupwara encounter**Hindu, 16 June 2009**

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kupwara district of north Kashmir, a police spokesman said on Monday. The encounter took place when the militants opened fire on an Army patrol at village Kumkadi, 90 km from here, on Sunday evening, the spokesman said. He said the identity of the

militants is yet to be ascertained

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/16/stories/2009061657240100.htm>

Omar seeks investment in J&K by private companies
Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2009

NEW DELHI, June 15: Urging investors to free their minds of the idea of Jammu and Kashmir being a militancy-hit State, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today asked private companies to look at investment opportunities in the region in areas including farm, power, tourism, IT and handicraft. Initialising efforts to attract investors to the State, the Chief Minister held the first meeting of the joint task force, set up with industry body— CII. In his inaugural address, Abdullah informed the industry captains about the State Government's proposal to set up a coal-based thermal power plant at the pit head with a 1,000 MW capacity. "This will help the State in overcoming its acute power shortage and we may at some stage look for private sector participation in a joint venture mode for this purpose," he said. Mr Abdullah is the Chairman of the CII task force on J&K while Bharti Enterprise Chairman and CEO Sunil Mittal is the co-chairman

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Pak reluctance renders cross-LoC route irrelevant
Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2009

JAMMU, June 15: Delay in release of permits to cross-LoC visitors due to blockade of permission by Ministry of Home Affairs, Pakistan has virtually put a question mark over weekly Poonch-Rawalakote bus service with hardly any civilian left in this part of the State having permit to visit Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) next Monday after nine civilians left for other part of LoC with re-validated permits today. "For the last two months, not even a single permit has been issued to the people of Jammu region to visit PoK from weekly Poonch-Rawalakote route due to denial of mandatory clearance by Pakistan's Home Ministry. Nine civilians, who were left out of a total of 80 persons issued permits two months back, today left for PoK from Poonch after getting their permits re-approved as they had expired", official sources said

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

Leh, Kargil LAHDCs accounts to be audited
Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2009

JAMMU, June 17: For the first time since their inception, the accounts of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil will be audited to ensure financial discipline by detecting irregularities, violation of rules and expenditure beyond budgetary provisions. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council of Leh was framed in 1995 while the Hill Council of Kargil came into being in 2003 and both these Councils have been receiving financial assistance of crores of rupees from

the State Government under Plan and Non-Plan heads

Rs 3.43 cr worth trade at LoC
Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2009

JAMMU, June 17: Cross-LoC trade worth Rs 3.43 crore took place on weekly Poonch-Rawlakote route during two days. Yesterday, cross-LoC trade, which is conducted on barter system, was worth Rs 83.96 lakh while today it jumped to Rs 2.59 crore. Forty nine trucks exchanged sides at Chakan-Da-Bagh cross LoC point in Poonch district today. While 40 trucks carrying tradable items reached Poonch from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), only nine trucks left for PoK from Poonch, official sources said. Yesterday, only 24 trucks had exchanged sides at cross-LoC point

I own responsibility for Shopian: Omar
Hindustan Times, 19 June 2009

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, 38, on Thursday "owned responsibility" for what went wrong in the initial stages after the Shopian incident of May 30 when two young women were raped and murdered. In an exclusive interview to HT, Abdullah said: "As the head of government, I own the responsibility for what went wrong in the initial stages (of the Shopian probe.)"

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=IndiaSectionPage&id=c291e64a-c9e7-42ee-ad97-4cd6e2f1aec5&Headline=I+own+responsibility+for+Shopian:+Omar>

Mehbooba hails PM's assurance
Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 18: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti today said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assurance of justice to victims of rape and murder in Shopian district comes as a relief but it further highlighted "criminal negligence" of the State Government. Addressing a meeting of the party legislators and senior leaders here today, Mehbooba welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement saying "though late in the day, it should stir the State Government out of its cover up mode"

Hurriyat for CBMs before dialogue
Tribune, 19 June 2009

The Hurriyat Conference has sought a serious approach for the resolution of the Kashmir issue through a comprehensive dialogue to ensure an everlasting peace in South Asia. Reacting to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement about having a dialogue with any group in Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesman for the APHC (Mirwaiz) here said today that it was necessary first to take some confidence-building measures (CBM). The APHC (Mirwaiz) last week had proposed five-point CBMs for resolving the Kashmir issue. APHC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had on May 21 threatened to launch a mass agitation in case some "concrete measures" were not taken by July 13, giving the newly constituted UPA government two months to take the requisite measures

Baramulla march foiled, 20 injured
Tribune, 20 June 2009

The state government foiled the separatists-sponsored Baramulla march today without much difficulty, even as around 20 persons were injured in clashes between police and CRPF personnel in the valley. Heavy contingents of police and CRPF personnel were deployed on the roads leading to Baramulla while the north Kashmir district administration had invoked Section 144 of CrPC, prohibiting the assembly of

five or more persons. Groups of people from Pulwama and Shopian tried to drive toward Baramulla, but were stopped by the police. Several localities of Srinagar and some in Baramulla though witnessed violence and at least four journalists were injured when the police in Nowhatta fired teargas shells at them

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090620/j&k.htm>

Pak-trained ultra dies making bombs

Tribune, 20 June 2009

A Pakistan-trained militant, who was working as a casual worker in Kashmir University, was killed and two others were injured when they were making an IED at Lal Bazaar in Srinagar last night. The otherwise routine crime in the context of Kashmir has assumed significance in the light of Vice-President Hamid Ansari's visit to the varsity tomorrow

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090620/j&k.htm>

Jan Commission submits interim report on Shopian incident

Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 21: The Justice Jan Commission, probing the rape and murder of two women in Shopian district last month, today submitted its interim report to the State Government recommending action under rules against some officials of the civil administration, police department and medical officers in the district for their conduct of the case which led to loss of evidence. An official spokesman said "Justice Jan Commission enquiring into the Shopian case submitted its interim report to the Government late this evening, here today."

Families of surrendered militants fight for clean chit

Tribune, 22 June 2009

Surrendered militant Javed Hussain Shah fought terrorists for over a decade and now his family braces itself for a 'war' of a different kind - moving from one office to another to get a certificate from the government about him not being involved in any militant activities

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2009/20090622/j&k.htm>

SP, DySP, SHO among five suspended

Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2009

SRINAGAR, June 22: A day after Justice Jan Commission submitted its interim report, the State Government today suspended four police officials, including the then Superintendent of Police Javid Iqbal Mattoo, and a Scientific Officer of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for lapses in the conduct of rape and murder cases of two women in Shopian district last month. "On the basis of interim report submitted by Justice (retired) Muzaffar Jan Commission, the Government today placed under suspension five officials with immediate effect," an official spokesman said

3 top Lashkar militants gunned down in Reasi

Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2009

JAMMU, June 22: Three militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) including two commanders were gunned down by Army in a fierce encounter at village Khour near Lad area under the jurisdiction of Gulabgarh police station in Reasi district this evening while an IED was defused by security forces near Ramsu on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in early hours of the morning

45 arrive from PoK, none leaves from Poonch

Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2009

JAMMU, June 22: Even as 45 guests from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) reached Poonch today from weekly Poonch-Rawlakote bus service, there was once again not even a single citizen from this part of the State on board the bus to cross Line of Control (LoC) as Pakistan authorities didn't issue mandatory clearance to the Regional Passport Officer (RPO) for release of permits. The weekly bus left for PoK from Poonch this morning carrying only 29 citizens of PoK, who were on way back to their homes after completing their 28 days trip to this part of the divided State. There was no civilian from Jammu region on board the bus for PoK visit, official sources said

Hurriyat calls for 3-day strike

Hindu, 30 June 2009

SRINAGAR: Condemning the police firing in Baramullah in which two people lost their lives, the Hurriyat Conference (Geelani) has called for a three-day general strike, beginning on Tuesday to protest against the "government's callousness and insensitive approach to dealing with the situation." A spokesman of the Hurriyat said, "The government has failed to solve the Shopian rape and murder case and now innocent people are fired upon by [the] police. So there is no other way but to protest by observing strike for three days and afternoon protests on Friday."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/30/stories/2009063060511000.htm>

One soldier killed in LoC firing

Hindu, 30 June 2009

SRINAGAR: In what is seen as a violation of ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), one soldier was killed when Indian troops came under fire from across the border in Poonch sector on Sunday night. Reports said that the firing took place from across the LoC towards PK Post in the Ajote area, just few meters away from the Cross-LoC trade centre at Rangar

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/30/stories/2009063056041000.htm>