

Daily Excelsior, 1 Aug 2005

### **Bakaya posted as CS, Bloeria CM's Advisor**

SRINAGAR, July 31: The State cabinet today approved appointments of Vijay Bakaya, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, as new Chief Secretary of the State in place of Dr S S Bloeria, who has been appointed as Advisor to Chief Minister till his superannuation from the Government services. The Cabinet, which met here this morning under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed also ordered transfers of 10 officers in civil administration and 16 officers in police department. Mr Bakaya, an IAS officer of 1970 batch of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, will continue to hold the charge of Principal Secretary to Chief Minister. He will hold additional charge of Information, Hospitality and Protocol and Agencies and Civil Aviation Department.

Daily Excelsior, 1 Aug 2005

### **PoK intellectuals meet Hurriyat leaders**

SRINAGAR, July 31: A delegation of intellectuals from Pakistan occupied Kashmir met leaders of moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference here and discussed Indo-Pak peace process. The meeting took place yesterday at the amalgam's headquarters in which both sides agreed to continue contact between peoples from both sides of Kashmir for garnering support for a dialogue process that would lead to peaceful resolution of Kashmir, Hurriyat sources said today. The 10-member PoK delegates, led by retired PoK Chief Justice Abdul Majid Malik, registered a strong protest against the Hurriyat leadership for not visiting Gilgit and Baltistan during their recent visit across the Line of Control, they said. The separatist leaders assured the delegation that they would visit the northern areas in future as they could not do it last time due to a tight schedule, the source said

Daily Excelsior, 1 Aug 2005

### **3 militants, civilian killed in Valley**

SRINAGAR, July 31: Three militants and a civilian have died in different incidents of violence in Kashmir valley since last evening. Official sources said that troops of Rashtriya Rifles killed a top-wanted militant of Hizbul Mujahideen, Irshad Ahmed Dar alias Bitta alias Khalid of Mahend, Bijbehara, in a brief encounter near Sirigufwara, in Anantnag district, yesterday. Sources said that Dar had been operating as a Hizb militant for the last seven years and was suspected to be a "battalion commander". Officials claimed that a loaded pistol and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession. Residents, however, alleged that Dar had been captured alive by troops when he was on way to his village on a motorcycle. They alleged that he was severely tortured to death in custody. Officials maintained that Dar was a dreaded militant, believed to be responsible for a number of killings, and asserted that he was killed in an encounter with security forces.

Daily Excelsior, 1 Aug 2005

### **Hurriyat discrediting institution of dialogue: Sajjad Lone**

HANDWARA, July 31: Chairman of a faction of J&K Peoples Conference, Sajjad Gani Lone, today castigated the Mirwaiz faction of the separatist Hurriyat Conference with the allegation that it was discrediting the institution of dialogue. He said that engagement into a dialogue with both New Delhi and Islamabad was in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris but "begging for a dialogue" was "an insult". In his speech, Sajjad described dialogue on the Kashmir dispute as the only way-out to reach its solution but he warned that New Delhi and Islamabad were both discrediting this institution through "a bunch of imposed Kashmiri leaders".

Daily Excelsior, 1 Aug 2005

### **3.54 lakh pilgrims visit Amarnath**

JAMMU, July 31: Over 3.54 lakh pilgrims have so far performed the darshan of holy 'Ice Lingam' of Lord Shiva this year at Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas. This was stated by a spokesman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) while talking to Excelsior here, today. He said 3.54 lakh pilgrims have performed darshan of holy Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva at Amarnath till today since the Governor Lt. Gen S K Sinha who is also the chairman of the SASB performed the Pratham Poojan in the holy cave on June 21. Among them a large number of pilgrims have since returned to their home States, while others are on their way, the spokesman said, adding that for the convenience of pilgrims special arrangements were made by the Board and State administration this year.

The India Express, 1 Aug 2005 (SHISHIR GUPTA)

### **Sudden disquiet: infiltration, Jammu & Kashmir**

BARAUB (GUREZ), JULY 31: The Shina-speaking Gurezis, ethnically linked to Gilgit in Pakistan's Northern Areas, thought that the 2003 Indo-Pak ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) had broken down when artillery guns boomed and lit up the night sky last fortnight. But this was no cross-LoC firing: it signalled the last phase of the Indian Army's operation against Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) cadres infiltrating this sector. Operation Makalwain was no Kargil though Mushkoh Valley, from where Pakistanis first intruded in 1999, lies adjacent to Gurez. But it

was perhaps one of the biggest operations since the mountain conflict: an entire Indian Army brigade (around 3,000 men) was involved in neutralising a large group of militants.

Greater Kashmir, 1 Aug 2005

#### **Police hints at Army involvement in diesel scam**

Jammu: Police investigations have hinted at the involvement of Army officers in the diesel pilferage racket in the Army's Northern Command. The racket was unearthed on July 19 when the army had seized seven Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) tankers filled with water, instead of diesel and petrol at Leh. Highly placed police sources told UNI in Jammu that during the course of investigations into the scam, the names of some Army officers had figured. Deputy Inspector General of Police (Srinagar-Leh) Hemant Lohia, however, said the case was still in the initial stages and it would take some time to complete the process of investigation. Asked if the names of army personnel had figured in the police investigation into the case, he said it would be premature to comment on such issues.

Greater Kashmir, 1 Aug 2005

#### **India forced us to pick up gun: Yasin Malik**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik on Sunday accused New Delhi of forcing Kashmiris to pick up gun.

"We've a 5,000-year-old history of peace and non-violence. In 1947, when whole of sub-continent was burning in communal riots and when thousands of Muslims were massacred by Hindus in Jammu, there was no retaliation in Kashmir. This made Mahatma Gandhi, the father of India State to say that 'I see a ray of hope from Kashmir,'" Malik said. Malik was sharing dais with the NC president Omar Abdullah here during a function organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil society, an NGO headed by noted human rights activist Pervez Iqbal. The JKLF chairman responded to the students' questions which ranged from his organisation's unilateral ceasefire in 1994 to his vision of Azadi.

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2005

#### **Intra-Kashmir conference calls for ceasefire**

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: India and Pakistan should accelerate the peace process, especially by facilitating people-to-people contact, delegates from India and PoK participating at a conference to discuss the Kashmir issue said today. "The report of the conference will be submitted to policy makers of India and Pakistan with a request to speed up the ongoing process so as the benefits reach the ground," former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of PoK Abdul Majid Malik, who participated in what they claimed to be the first 'intra-Kashmir' conference here, told reporters here. However, he said the delegates did not discuss possible solutions to the Kashmir problem. The conference, sponsored jointly by the Centre For Dialogue and Reconciliation (CDR), Delhi Policy Group and Forum For Regional Voices, was attended by 45 delegates from India and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2005

#### **Afghanistan-like situation being created in J&K: Hashim**

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Senior separatist leader Hashim Qureshi today said the bomb blasts near schools and colleges was a "conspiracy to render a large chunk of the population illiterate and create an Afghanistan like situation in Jammu and Kashmir". "It is a conspiracy to infuse terror among the parents so that they do not send their children to schools and colleges. It is being done deliberately to render a large chunk of the population illiterate," Mr Qureshi, who heads the Democratic Liberation Party (DLP), said here. He said the move is aimed at creating an Afghanistan-like situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "If such incidents are not immediately stopped, a dark future awaits the people of the State," the founder-member of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said.

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2005

#### **5 militants killed in Handwara, Kulgam**

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: While security forces captured a motorcycle-borne armed militant in a dramatic chase at Khanyar in this capital city today, troops have eliminated five militants in two separate gunbattles in Kashmir valley since last evening. Informed sources told the Excelsior that over a specific information, troops of Rashtriya Rifles 9th Bn, BSF 90th Bn and SOG Kulgam launched a cordon-and-search operation at Arah village in Kulgam area of south Kashmir late last night. According to the information available with SOG, two local militants of Hizbul Mujahideen had arrived in the village to attend a marriage ceremony. Early in the morning, troops opened fire when they noticed two militants making an attempt to escape from the cordoned locality. Both the militants got killed in an hour-long gunbattle. The militants killed in the gunbattle were identified as Mohammad Rafeeq Piswal alias 'Fighter Khan' alias Pakistani S/o Baj Piswal R/o Tangmarg Ahrabal and Mohammad Abbas Khan S/o

Abdullah Khan R/o Khee Jogipora. Officials claimed that 'Fighter Khan' had taken over as Hizbul Mujahideen's "district commander" after the dreaded Pakistani militant Abdullah Bhai was killed by security forces in an encounter earlier this year.

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2005

**'Operation Sadbhavana' must to counter terrorism: GoC**

JAMMU, Aug 1: General Officer Commanding Tiger Division, Maj Gen Vinay Sharma today said that apart from gun to counter insurgency, it was essential to ensure better development and carry on the mission behind "Operation Sadbhavana". The GOC who flagged off a group of 25 teachers selected from border belt of Jammu on 'Prerna Yatra' to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh today, told a group of media-persons that in order to counter insurgency in the Jammu and Kashmir it was necessary to ensure better development in all the areas especially of the border belt and remote areas and carry on the good will operation. He said today's Sadbhavana tour is the part of this Operation. The teachers from border areas of Jammu division will be visiting various top schools in Punjab and Himachal.

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2005

**Tourist flow to Valley increases**

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: Domestic tourists flow into Kashmir valley has shown a record growth of 83 per cent during the first six months of this year. More than 2.80 lakh domestic tourists visited Srinagar from January to June this year as against a total of 3.58 lakh tourists visiting the place in 2004, an official release said today. Foreign tourists arrival also registered a two per cent increase as more than 8,000 foreign tourists visited the Valley during the period. The increase in the tourists arrivals comes in the backdrop a number of initiatives taken by the Centre for the revival of tourism in the State, the release said.

Kashmir Times, 2 Aug 2005

**Plan to target pilgrims foiled**

KT NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Aug 1: Acting swiftly before tragedy could strike police last night arrested two Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) Fidayeens foiling their plan to inflict casualties among Amarnath pilgrims in Jammu, being sojourn to the Amarnath cave shrine. With the timely action police has unearthed HM's plot of targeting Amarnath pilgrims besides causing blasts at crowded places in the City of Temples to create a reign of terror. Sources said that in the wake of these arrests a general alert has been sounded in and around M A stadium and in the city. The arrested militants, who are real brothers, have been identified as Salim and Noorani, the eldest one. Sources said, Salim has received training in the handling of arms and ammunition in an ultras' training camp in Pakistan. The elder brother Noorani, who is also a HM militant, was arrested by security forces in Gulabgarh in Udhampur district sometime back.

Kashmir Times, 2 August 2005

**Govt's return plan a hoax: KPs**

KT NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, August 1: A delegation of Kashmiri migrants led by Ashok Hangloo secretary NC Minority Cell called on National Conference patron Dr Farooq Abdullah and apprised him of the various problems being faced by the migrant community. As per release, the delegation during meeting with the Farooq Abdullah alleged that the state government was not interested in the welfare of the migrants, who were now fed up with the hollow promises of coalition regime. The visiting delegation criticized the government for not implementing the recommendation of the inter-ministerial group for the upliftment of community. The delegation said that government is only befooling the community in the name of return plan and asserted that no one is ready to go back in this state of turmoil.

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2005

**Two militants killed in Mahore, another captured**

JAMMU, Aug 2: Two militants and two civilians including a woman were killed while another militant was captured alive as the ultras lobbed a grenade on two Army vehicles and an IED was defused in the separate militancy related incidents in Jammu region since last night. Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained suspended for half an hour this morning in view of a false alarm over an explosive device having been planted on the road side at Ramban, about 168 kms from here before the arrival of Amarnath yatra convoy.

The Indian Express, 3 August 2005

**Jammu & Kashmir militants copy Iraq model: car bomb as weapon (Shishir Gupta)**

J&K Srinagar, August 3: For the last 72 hours, the Army and para-military forces have been on tenterhooks, trying to nab an explosives-packed car in the Jammu region. There has been specific intelligence that Katra, at the base of the Vaishno Devi shrine, would be targeted by militants. While infiltration at the LoC is a headache for troops deployed on the border, security forces and internal security agencies in the hinterland are now grappling with a new menace: the car bomb.

Greater Kashmir, 3 August 2005

#### **Kashmir opening to Gulf Market**

Srinagar, Aug 2: With the up-gradation of Srinagar Airport into an International Airport next year, Kashmir is poised to open in a big way to the Gulf Region both for tourism as well as trade. This was stated by B.A. Nayeem, leader of the three member senior management team from Sharjah based International Frozen Foodstuff Company during their meeting with Chief Minister, J & K. The IFFCO Group is the largest food products company in UAE and has a turn over of half a billion US \$. It has its presence in 65 countries and has manufacturing units in Egypt, Malaysia and UAE. The Group deals in a number of segments; Food and Beverages, Personal Care and Cleaning, Packaging and Industrial Products and Logistics.

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2005

#### **Jaiswal's U-turn on terror camps**

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: A month after he had spoken of militant camps in Poonch and Rajouri, Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal today did a U-turn by denying existence of any such camps. Replying to a question in Lok Sabha raised by Mahesh Kanodia and Bhupendrasinh Solanki of BJP on terrorist camps in Poonch and Rajouri sector, Jaiswal said "no, sir. Government have no input to suggest running of training camps in Poonch and Rajouri sectors of Jammu and Kashmir state." His statement comes a month after Jaiswal, who had on his return from the militancy-affected State said a massive combing operation would be launched soon to flush out the militants and destroy their infrastructure.

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2005

#### **Hizb commander killed in 'group clash'**

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: While militants have killed a farmer in late night shootout in Pulwama, a top-wanted commander of Hizbul Mujahideen has been found killed in mysterious circumstances in Achhabal area of Anantnag district. Within days of Army's killing a farmer boy in late night firing, militants have killed a farmer, who was busy with irrigation of his paddy fields in Pulwama district. Informed sources told the Excelsior that one Bashir Ahmed Wani S/o Abdul Khaliq Wani of Mohanvij, Kakapora, was busy with irrigation of his fields at his water pump close to his village late last evening. One of his relatives, who was present on the spot, later narrated that Wani spotted two persons moving around and asked them loudly who they were. He probably mistook them for thieves who have stolen a number of water pumps in Pulwama district.

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2005

#### **Hurriyat not true representative of Kashmiri people: Government**

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: Government today said the Hurriyat Conference was not the true representative of people of Kashmir and only put forward the views of a section of Kashmiri people. Replying to written questions in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal said "in a democracy, the elected representatives are the true representatives. "Hurriyat represents the views of a section of Kashmiri people," he said. Referring to the invitation extended by some leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir by Hurriyat leaders, he said this was done by the leaders of the separatist amalgam in their personal capacity and "no official channel has been used for this invitation."

The Indian Express, 3 August 2005

#### **Pak Army sent infiltrators into Kashmir in '65, says its ex-Air Chief (ARSHAD SHARIF)**

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 2: Pakistan Air Force and Navy were not taken into confidence by the top Army command as they started a secret operation to launch infiltrators into Kashmir—an operation which finally led to the Pakistan-India war in 1965—former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Nur Khan has said. The 82-year-old retired former Air Chief revealed this to Dawn as he shared his memories of leading the PAF from the front during the 1965 war, a fact also acknowledged in a recently published article by Air Marshal S. Raghavendran of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Greater Kashmir, 3 August 2005

#### **HC issues notice to Centre, State on Maqbool Bhat's remains**

Srinagar, Aug 2: The High Court on Tuesday issued show cause notice to Central Government and Chief

Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue of return of the remains of Muhammad Maqbool Bhat, who is widely seen as the founder of Kashmiri separatism against New Delhi. Acting on a petition filed by the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) which had sought the return of the remains of Bhat who was hanged in Delhi's Tihar jail 20 years ago and buried in the jail premises, Justice Nisar Ahmad Kakroo directed the Home Ministry, Director General of Police (DGP) of Jails Delhi, and the state Chief Secretary to file objections within six weeks.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

#### **Soldier, militant killed in Handwara**

SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Apparently perturbed over the spiraling graph of violence, Peoples Democratic Party-led coalition government has directed its Police force to intensify counter-insurgency operations in the Valley. An order issued from Zonal Police Headquarters and circulated among all District SPs and DIGs of the executive Police has made it categorically clear that the militants and their over-ground support structure should be tackled firmly with immediate effect. IGP Kashmir, Javed Makhdoomi, who seemed to be more concerned over "social crime" (movement of young couples, fake currency, car thefts etc) during the first ten months of his tenure, is understood to have directed all DIGs, SSPs and SPs to intensify operations against the militants.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

#### **Two Afghans shot dead in infiltration bid**

JAMMU, Aug 3: Army today foiled an infiltration attempt killing two Afghani militants at Pindi Gali in Shahpur area on Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district while a Territorial Army jawan, a Special Police Officer (SPO) and a civilian were killed by the ultras and an Army officer was injured in a mine blast in separate incidents in Jammu region. Troops of Poonch Brigade observed movement of three militants infiltrating into Indian territory from Pindi Gali in Mandi, Shahpur at 1.30 am today. A contact with the militants was established at 2.20 am, official sources said, adding in 40 minutes heavy exchange of firing, two infiltrators were eliminated by the troops. Brigadier A K Bakshi, Garrison Commander, Poonch Brigade rushed to the spot and supervised the operation. The third infiltrator retrieved to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

#### **Launching camps active from Gurez to Rajouri: Pranab**

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Cross-border infiltration has increased in June and July this year due to melting of snow along the border, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee informed the Rajya Sabha today. "It was observed that there was a reduction in the number of infiltration attempts from across the border in the initial five months of 2005. However, there has been an increase in cross-border infiltration in June and July 2005," he said during question hour. Mukherjee said when snow melts, infiltration increases. "So we have to be extra careful during these months," he added. The minister said there has been no reduction in the number of troops deployed on the border in Jammu and Kashmir as reports indicated that the logistic infrastructure of terrorist training camps inside Pakistan and in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir still remained intact.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

#### **Vohra meets PM on Hurriyat talks**

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Amid the process of high-level consultations on Hurriyat Conference's desire to hold talks with the Centre, Government's special representative on Jammu and Kashmir N N Vohra today met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here. Vohra, who was with the Prime Minister for about 30 minutes, apprised him of the latest developments in the State on all fronts, including political and militancy-related, official sources said. Hurriyat's desire to hold talks with the Centre is understood to have figured in the discussions. After Hurriyat signalled its desire last month to hold talks, consultations have begun at the top level in the Government in this regard. A number of meetings have been held here recently involving Vohra, National Security Adviser M K Narayanan and other top officers of various ministries to discuss all aspects involved in such talks, including the modalities and ramifications.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

#### **Clarify agenda: Omar**

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Urging the Hurriyat Conference to clarify its agenda before entering into a dialogue with the Centre, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah today asked the separatist amalgam to make public the discussions it had with Pakistani leadership during its recent visit to Islamabad. He told reporters on the sidelines of a panel discussion that the Indo-Pak peace process has "slowed down" in the absence of proper dialogue between the Centre and the elected representatives of Kashmir. The committee formed by the Union Home Ministry to discuss the issue of autonomy has not held any meeting for the past seven months, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

**Give Jammu migrants relief: SC**

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: The Supreme Court Bench, comprising Justice Ruma Paul, Justice AR Laxman and Justice SH Kapadia today ordered that the migrants, caused due to militancy, from Doda, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua and other areas of Jammu province shall be provided relief in cash and kind equivalent to the relief provided to the migrants from the Valley. This judgment was delivered on an appeal filed by the State of J&K against the judgment of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, in which the Division Bench of J&K High Court had directed the State Government to provide relief to the migrants of Jammu at par with the migrants from Kashmir valley.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

**Militants taken to Faizabad**

AYODHYA, Aug 3: Uttar Pradesh police today brought the four terrorists, arrested in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the July 5 fidayeen attack on Ram Janmabhoomi, to Faizabad. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Avinash Chandra said here, the ultras would be produced before a Faizabad court tomorrow. The terrorists were being kept under tight security. The terrorists — Naseem, Asif Iqbal alias Farooq, Shakeel and Aziz — would be produced tomorrow before the Faizabad CJM under tight security, the SSP said. Two of them were arrested on July 14, while two others were nabbed on July 27 last.

Greater Kashmir, 4 August 2005

**7 militants, 2 soldiers among 9 killed**

GK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Aug 3: Seven militants including tehsil commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba, a trooper and an SPO were among nine persons killed in separate incidents across the state since Tuesday. Two militants were killed by troops during an encounter at Bandi Cheche area of Shahpur Poonch near LoC on Tuesday night. According to KNS, the troops of 15 JAKLI after spotting a group of five militants trying to sneak into this side of the border opened fire on them triggering a gunfight. In the ensuing gunfight, two unidentified militants were killed while the rest crossed back to the other side. A soldier and a militant were killed in a fierce encounter in forest area of Boun Watsar Rajouri Handwara on Wednesday. According to KNS in the gunfight the soldier of 21 RR Sandeep Kumar was killed while another trooper Vijay Kumar was wounded. The troops also killed an unidentified militant in the ensuing firefight.

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2005

**Kashmir a human issue: Jammata**

SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Terming Kashmir problem as a "human issue", Jamaat-e-Islami, a constituent of Hardline faction of Hurriyat, has said it could be solved either through tripartite talks or UN resolution. "Kashmir is a human issue which could be solved either through tripartite talks or UN resolutions in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," spokesman of Jel Zahid Ali said at its meeting here yesterday. The organisation claimed that the UN resolution, which India considers outdated, could lead to the final and fair solution to Kashmir as all other solutions have failed to resolve the problem in the past. Expressing concern over growing incidents of human rights violations and social evils including immorality and corruption in the State, the spokesman appealed to all religious groups, spiritual leaders and intellectuals to come forward and work for elimination of the social evils. (PTI)

Daily Times, 5 August 2005

**7 die in Kashmir**

SRINAGAR: Seven people were killed in fresh fighting between soldiers and militants in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said on Thursday. An Indian army soldier and three militants were killed in two fierce clashes late Wednesday in the southern district of Poonch and in Kupwara district in the north, a police spokesman said. "Both the clashes erupted when troops launched counter-insurgency operations in the two areas," he added. Also late on Wednesday, militants abducted a policeman and a soldier in Doda and Rajouri and killed them, police said. Police also recovered the bullet-ridden body of a student in Anantnag district. Afp

Daily Times, 5 August 2005

**Peace talks reduced violence, says Sayeed**

SRINAGAR: Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, chief minister of Held Jammu and Kashmir, on Thursday said that peace efforts between India and Pakistan had led to a drop in violence in the Himalayan region. The number of attacks in Jammu and Kashmir was down by 25 percent from January to July compared to the same period last year, dropping from more than 1,600 to just over 1,200, said Sayeed. "We are reaping the dividends of the peace

process in Kashmir," he told reporters, adding that from the start of year through the end of July, 335 civilians were killed along with 156 security force personnel and 606 militants. During the same period last year, the government says 482 civilians, 198 Indian security force personnel and 626 militants were killed.

Greater Kashmir, 5 August 2005

#### **Farooq goes to court on Sheikh's grave (M Y SHEIKH)**

Srinagar, Aug 4: The former chief Minister and patron National Conference (NC) Farooq Abdullah has filed a petition in the High Court seeking permission to repair the platform adjacent to the mausoleum of former prime minister of the state and his father Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah after Lakes and Waterways Development Authority refused to grant permission citing court orders. The petition said that Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah died on September 8, 1981 and was buried on the banks of Dal Lake at Naseembagh Hazratbal. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, the petition said, in his lifetime had purchased the land from one late G.M Bhat. It said a park and a structure were raised which existed at the place for last two decades.

Greater Kashmir, 5 August 2005

**?Remarkable development in JK due to peace process?** (RIYAZ MASROOR)Srinagar, Aug 4: As if taking stock of his innings Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Syed on Thursday sketched out the performance graph of his nearly three year rule showing uncertainty and violence way below the heights of progress and development. For this 'change' Mufti went way out of local context to credit Indo-Pak bonhomie rather than his own government. Almost three months ahead of November deadline when he is supposed to hand the baton over to Congress, Mufti Syed today spoke to newsmen in Banquet Hall. While charting out a new course of development for the state he envisaged 10 percent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) toward the end of 2007 and investment in industrial sector touching Rs. 5000 Crore mark in the following years. Although Chief Minister chose to remain vague on the issue of power transition in November, he appeared sharing his vision for next three years setting off further speculation.

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2005

#### **?Mafia? scuttling peace process: Ex-PoK Judge**

JAMMU, Aug 4: Airing apprehension that 'Mafia' in guise of some politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen in both India and Pakistan may scuttle the on-going peace process between the two nations, former Chief Justice of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) Justice Abdul Majid Malik, who is currently on visit to Jammu and Kashmir, said that ultimate solution to the vexed Kashmir issue lies in the hands of people of five regions of undivided J&K.

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2005

#### **Timber scam: HC constitutes expert committee**

JAMMU, Aug 4: The State High Court today ordered Conservator of Forests Central Circle Srinagar and Managing Director State Forest Corporation (SFC) to join the investigation immediately in the much publicized multi-crore Timber Supply Scam. They were also directed to be present before the Investigating Team. The Division Bench, in the open Court, ordered for constitution of expert team, comprising Chief Conservator of Forest Jammu, PC Kapoor, Dr CN Seth, Chief Wild Life Warden and Brij Mohan Sharma, DFO Kathua and also ordered for unloading of the timber from the bogies and directed the authorities to provide appropriate space. The Court also directed Commissioner-cum-Secretary Forest Department for immediate unloading of the timber. It also ordered for submitting the detail of supply of timber for certain years.

#### **10-year term for cousin Shaukat; Geelani, Afshan acquitted**

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 4: Nearly four years after the attack on Parliament which led to a tense border stand-off with Pakistan, the Supreme Court today confirmed the death penalty on Muhammad Afzal of Sopur in north Kashmir. The court, however, reduced the sentence of Shaukat Hussain Guru to rigorous imprisonment of ten years and upheld the acquittal of DU lecturer S A R Geelani and Afshan Guru by the Delhi High Court in October 2003. A division bench comprising Justice P V Reddi and Justice P P Naolekar said the December 13, 2001, attack on Parliament in which nine people, besides five militants, were killed had no parallel in the history of the Indian Republic and observed that "the collective conscience of the society would be satisfied if death sentence was awarded to Afzal for defiling the temple of democracy."

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2005

#### **Govt plans petroleum pipeline between Jammu, Srinagar**

Srinagar, Aug 5: In a significant announcement, Union Secretary of Petroleum and Natural Gas SC Tripathy today said the Government of India is planning to lay a petroleum pipeline between Jammu and Srinagar to meet fuel

requirements of the Valley and ensure uninterrupted supply especially during the winter. Mr Tripathy who called on Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed here this morning, said his ministry is exploring the possibility of laying an underground pipeline along the alignment of the National Highway between two capital cities of Jammu and Kashmir and is conducting a survey for the purpose.

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2005

#### **Srinagar blasts solved: DGP (Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)**

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: Director General of Police, Gopal Sharma, today claimed that with the arrest of six militants, Jammu & Kashmir Police had solved the car bomb explosions that had left seven persons dead and scores wounded on May 11th and July 10th this year at Jawahar Nagar and Sonwar in this capital city. He sounded hopeful that Police would also crack the car bomb blast in which 9 soldiers of Army had got killed and over a dozen injured at Nishat. While addressing a news conference at Jammu & Kashmir Police Headquarters here this evening, DGP revealed that he had constituted a high-level investigation team, headed by IGP Kashmir Javed Makhdoomi, in the wake of a series of car bomb blasts in Srinagar and Pulwama since May 11th this year. He claimed that Police achieved a breakthrough when it arrested a group of six militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, who had caused a number of the car bomb blasts.

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2005

#### **No plan to provide aerial support to Army: Tyagi**

Srinagar, Aug 5: Stating that decision of providing an aerial support to the Army, against militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, was a difficult and political decision, visiting Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi on Friday said there were no plans as such and that the Air force was yet to receive any orders per se. Addressing a press conference here today, soon after landing in Srinagar, Tyagi said that while Indian Air Force (IAF) lends a useful hand to the regular Army, however, there were no plans of using aerial troops in assistance to regular army in militancy hit Jammu and Kashmir. "Though we don't have any plans as such, however, it's a difficult decision and political in nature as far as the assistance of Air Force in dealing with militancy in Jammu and Kashmir was concerned," he added when he was asked to comment on Home Minister Shiv Raj Patil's recent statement that if need appeared army would be assisted by Air Force while dealing with militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2005

#### **7 Hurriyat leaders detained**

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: The Hurriyat Conference (Umar) called for a general strike on Monday to protest against the Supreme Court verdict which sentenced Mohammad Afzal Guru to death and Showkat Hussain Guru to a ten year imprisonment in the Parliament attack case. Affirming that the freedom movement will continue, a spokesman of the HC said the amalgam expresses its solidarity with the Guru families, adding that the HC will soon organise public demonstrations across the Kashmir valley against the verdict. Such repressive measures will have no affect on the morale of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are fighting for their freedom, he said and added that, infact such measures will further strengthen our resolve to achieve the goal of freedom. Earlier, addressing a Friday congregation at the historic Jamia Masjid, the HC chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Umar Farooq said people of Kashmir are making sacrifices since 1931.

Greater Kashmir, 6 August 2005

#### **1 killed in State**

GK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Aug 4: One person was killed and two soldiers including an army Major were wounded in separate incidents across the state since Wednesday. Unidentified gunmen shot dead Muhammad Sharif son of Lal Din of Mubbi (Kandi) at the nearby Dhok in Rajouri on Wednesday night, police said in a communique issued Thursday. Two troopers of 6 Assam Rifles including a Major were wounded when militants triggered an IED at Gop Geeri area of Rajouri on Thursday. According to CNS the Major has been identified as Durga Shastri. The duo has been hospitalised. In another incident, unidentified gunmen shot at and injured a boy, when their group was returning from picnic to Simthan top (Chatroo area) on motorcycles at Kadia bridge Doda on Wednesday evening. The injured has been hospitalised.

Greater Kashmir, 6 August 2005

#### **Guru family shocked, protests in Afzal's village**

GK NEWS SERVICE

Jagir Ghat (Sopur), Aug 4: Supreme Court Thursday confirmed the death sentence of Muhammad Afzal Guru and passed order of 10-year rigorous imprisonment to Showkat Guru in parliament attack case. Yasin Guru, the brother of Showkat quantifies the feelings of his family over the announcement. ? There is a mixed feeling in the

family, I would say there is 80 percent sorrow and 20 percent joy. I see no difference between Afzal and Showkat," he says. Afzal and Showkat are cousins. In Afzal Guru's house, however, there is an uneasy silence of an impending funeral meeting. Since morning, when the judgement was passed, relatives, neighbors and local residents visited the family to show solidarity. Some wonder at the shocking prospect of another Maqbool Bhat taking birth (or donning death) at the gallows.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Excursion bus fired upon, 5 killed**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7 : Five people, including four militants and a civilian, were killed while ultras opened fire on a school excursion bus causing injuries to a student in Kashmir since last evening, an official spokesman said today. He said unidentified gunmen last evening stopped and forcibly intruded into an excursion bus of Shopian's Shah Hamdan School near Arwani Bijbehara while returning from Kokernag. As the teachers and students resisted, the gunmen opened fire, resulting in injuries to a student Sheikh of Largam in Shopian. The gunmen later escaped under the cover of darkness, he said, adding the wounded student has been shifted to a hospital. Security forces killed two militants in an encounter at Dard Haji Vilgam in the frontier district of Kupwara last night, he said, adding the encounter ensued after a security forces search party was attacked by the militants.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Militants being trained to cut fences on LoC**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7: Facilitated by the melting of snow, several terrorist training camps along the Line of Control have been reactivated this April and "hundreds" of militants have got rigorous training in cutting and penetrating the border fence erected by India, media reports have said. Currently, "hundreds of militants are undergoing advanced training at camps in Bagh, Rawalkot, Kotli, Gulpur, Aliabad, Halanshumali, Padhar, Halan, Kaliar, Forwag, Kahuta and Kacharban across Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir," the New York-based weekly magazine 'South Asia Tribune' run by a dissident Pakistani said in a special report. It quoted "militant circles" as saying that "several training camps along the LoC were reactivated in April 2005, facilitated by the melting of snow".

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Injured civilian guns down militant in Gool**

JAMMU, Aug 7: In a daring incident, a civilian with bullet injuries in his abdomen snatched AK-47 rifle of a militant and gunned him down with the same weapon at village Thatharaka in Gool area of Ramban police district last night. Two other militants fled away after the killing of their associate. Militants also gunned down another civilian. In another incident, troops foiled an infiltration attempt in Balakote sector of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch district last night killing one militant. Official sources said three militants struck at village Thatharaka, about nine kms from Gool, at 9.30 pm last night and entered in the house of Abdul Qayoom son of Abdul Gaffar. One of the militant opened indiscriminate firing on the house inmates killing Abdul Qayoom on spot. The militant then entered in another house of Abdul Lateef and fired a shot in his abdomen causing him a deep wound. Hearing sound of gun shots, some people came out of their houses and raised an alarm.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Security forces on high alert**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Security forces across Jammu and Kashmir have been put on maximum alert and directed to launch extensive search operations in the "most vulnerable areas", a week ahead of the Independence Day, official sources said today. The sources said security personnel have been asked to be extra alert in view of the recent spurt in car bomb explosions and militant attacks in the Valley. The summer capital presents a virtual fortress as there is a massive deployment of security forces in the city. A group of five to six personnel could be seen after every ten metres. They have been spread to thwart any attempts by militants to disrupt the August 15 celebrations. Troops stopped pedestrians and all vehicles for thorough checks and frisking at all exit and entry points, resulting in frequent traffic snarls in the Srinagar city. Drop gates have been erected at various points to check possible movement of the militants, the sources added.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Geelani vows not to take part in polls**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani today strongly rejected autonomy, self governance, soft borders or elections as any solution to the long-festered Kashmir issue, and reiterated that the vexed problem could only be resolved by implementing the United Nations resolutions. The firebrand leader also vowed that he will never take part in any Assembly or Parliamentary elections. "Autonomy, self-governance, cross-border bus service, soft borders or elections cannot resolve the Kashmir issue. Its solution lies in the

implementation of the UN resolutions," Mr Geelani told a public meeting organised by his 'Tehreek-e-Hurriyat' on the first anniversary of his party at Hyderpora near here. "Let us pledge not to support those who have showed their willingness to enter into a bilateral dialogue and are ready to accept autonomy, self-governance and soft borders as a possible solution to the Kashmir issue,"

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **5 Hizb commanders killed in Mufti regime: Omar**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: National Conference (NC) Chief Omar Abdullah today alleged that five top Hizbul Mujahideen militant commanders, persuaded by the Farooq Abdullah government to enter into a dialogue with the Centre five years ago, were gunned down after the change of guard in the State in 2002. "The five Hizb commanders were persuaded by the NC government to enter into a dialogue with the Centre. But they were killed soon after the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed government assumed power in the State in November 2002," Mr Abdullah told a public meeting at Kralgund near Qazigund in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag, about 80 km from here. It was on July 25, 2000, that the Hizbul Mujahideen, the single largest indigenous militant group operating in Jammu and Kashmir, declared a unilateral ceasefire for three months, but called off the truce on August 8, 2000, following India's refusal to include Pakistan in any trilateral talks over the Kashmir issue as proposed by it.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **BJP for action against Hurriyat**

KOLKATA, Aug 7: The BJP today flayed the UPA Government for 'failing' to take any action against the Hurriyat leaders who visited Pakistan without the permission of the Centre and demanded immediate action against them. The Hurriyat leaders were allowed to go upto PoK, but they crossed-over and visited Islamabad and the Congress-led Government at the Centre did not take any action, BJP general secretary Rajnath Singh told a press conference here. Describing the Manmohan Singh-Government as the 'weakest' the country had ever seen, the BJP leader said, "It seems that the Centre is working like a travel agency". Singh also came down heavily on the Centre for allowing 50 per cent reservation for Muslims in the Aligarh Muslim University and demanded its withdrawal, saying the BJP was totally opposed to reservation on the basis of religion.

Greater Kashmir, 9 August 2005

#### **5 HM commanders ready for talks killed in PDP regime: Omar**

Srinagar, Aug 7: National Conference president Omar Abdullah on Sunday said the party's political manifesto could become a role model for the resolution of Kashmir issue "as it reflects the wishes and aspiration of Kashmiri people." Addressing a rally at Kralagund Qazigund, Omar said: "NC welcomes the growing relationship and ongoing dialogue process between India and Pakistan but wants that people of State shall also be included in the talks." While cautioning the forces involved in dividing the people of State on community lines, the party chief said that such forces would never be successful in their plots. Omar further termed the peace slogans raised by the coalition as hollow and said the growing human rights violation, daily killings of innocents and explosions are contrary to the claims made by the present regime.

Greater Kashmir, 9 August 2005

#### **Terrorism could affect peace process: India**

New Delhi: India has firmly told Pakistan that the peace process could be affected if President Pervez Musharraf did not rein in the "jehadis" operating from the neighbouring country. "What we have warned Pakistan is that there are certain thresholds and if they are crossed, the entire thing collapses," National Security Adviser (NSA) M K Narayanan told 'India Today' in an interview. He noted that President Musharraf had invested very heavily on the dialogue. "The General was worried that if it collapsed as a result of some terrorist incident, he would not have a leg to stand on internationally. The Prime Minister is using this card. What it should not do is for anybody to think we are becoming complacent. We are concerned that if an incident like Ayodhya had turned out otherwise, all dialogue with Pakistan would have evaporated," he added.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

#### **Govt withdraws controversial circular**

JAMMU, Aug 8: The State Government has withdrawn the controversial circular whereby a condition was imposed that Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) be re-issued to the daughters of the State Subjects after their marriage to indicate whether the lady has married a resident of the State or an outsider. The withdrawal of the circular number Rev ( LB) 87/74 of January 2005 was communicated in the State High Court, by Additional Advocate General AH Qazi, where a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and a related contempt petition were pending. With the withdrawal of the circular, the PIL/ contempt petition filed by Prof Hari Om were rendered infructuous. The same were accordingly disposed of. The High Court had earlier directed Commissioner-cum-Secretary

Revenue Department to remain present in the court, on the next date of hearing, in order to explain why a condition imposed in issuance of Permanent Resident Certificates to unmarried daughters of the State, has not been withdrawn. The Court on July 12 had stayed this controversial circular issued by Revenue Department .

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

### **No new posts to be developed on LoC; India, Pak decide to uphold cease-fire**

NEW DELHI, Aug 8: Pushing ahead with Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), India and Pakistan today decided to uphold the 20-month old ceasefire and agreed not to develop any new posts and defence works along the Line of Control (LoC). Announcing a series of steps at the end of the one-day expert level talks on conventional CBMs here between the two countries, External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters that they agreed to upgrade the existing hotline between their DGMOs by September end this year. The two sides also agreed to implement the 1991 agreement on air space violations in letter and spirit, he said while giving details of a joint statement issued after the talks.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

### **Pak leader confirms terror camps**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 8: Virtually confirming the existence of militant training camps in Pakistan, a radical pro-Taliban cleric has accused the Government of deceiving the United States by helping extremists to crossover into Afghanistan. "The rulers are not only trying to deceive the US and the West, but also hoodwinking the entire nation," Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the general secretary of Islamist alliance Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal said stung by Government accusations that clerics were promoting religious extremism and militancy. Claiming that the clerics were playing an active role in restoring peace in tribal areas, Rehman blamed the Government and the military of sending Taliban elements into Afghanistan. "We ask the rulers to reveal the identity of the people being transported to Afghanistan from Waziristan in private vehicles, reveal who is supervising their trouble-free entry into Afghanistan and reasons for their infiltration," he said in response to accusations by Lt Gen Safdar Hussain, in-charge of anti-Al-Qaeda operations in Waziristan that Taliban were backed by religious groups in Pakistan.

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2005

### **Air chief visits Siachen Glacier**

CHANDIGARH, Aug 8: Air Chief Marshal, S S Tyagi, Chief of Air Staff complimented the air warriors of the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battle ground for carrying out their duties with professional aptitude in adverse climatic conditions .The Air Chief made these comments on his visit to the Thoise, Air Force base in Siachen yesterday. This was his first ever visit to the Siachen Glacier after assuming command of the Indian Air Force. The Air Chief Marshal was accompanied by his wife Mrs Vandana Tyagi, president Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA). During his visit he also appreciated the Airmen in improving the quality of life of the people living in the Siachen area.

Greater Kashmir, 9 August 2005

### **Valley shuts down against SC verdict**

Srinagar, Aug 8: Expressing resentment against Supreme Court verdict of death penalty to Parliament accused Mohammed Afzal Guroo, entire Valley today observed complete shut down in response to the call given by separatist outfits. Roads and streets in the entire Valley wore deserted looks, while as people expressed peaceful but silent anger against the SC decree of death penalty for Mohammed Afzal Guroo and 10 year rigorous imprisonment for another accused Showket Guroo. Following Supreme Court's verdict, on Thursday August 4, decreeing punishments against the accused, almost all the separatist outfits had called for a shut down today to express resentment against the order. Those who had called for shut down include JKLF, APHC (Mirwaiz), APHC (Geelani), People's Conference (Sajad), Dukhtaran-e-Milat and others.

Greater Kashmir, 9 August 2005

### **2 Lashkar militants, SI among 7 killed**

Srinagar, Aug 8: Seven persons including two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants and a traffic police sub-inspector were killed in separate incidents across the state since Sunday. Three persons including two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed during a fierce encounter at Dogripora Pulwama on Sunday. According to KNS, the troops of 5 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) laid a siege around the area and started combing operation. During searches, the troops came under heavy gunfire from militants triggering an encounter. In the ensuing gunbattle, two militants Bilal Ahmad Ganai son of Abdul Rashid of Chandhara Pampore and Muhammad Amin Khanday son of Ghulam Hassan of Batagund Tral were killed. A civilian identified as Ghulam Muhammad Dar (55) son of Ghulam Qadir Dar of Dogripora was also killed in the encounter. According to a police communiqué, when the body of Bilal Ahmad Gani was being taken to Iddgah Pampore for burial, the tipper carrying the body met an accident causing

death of the brother of the deceased, Javed Ahmad.

Daily Excelsior, 10 August 2005

**Four pilgrims killed, 28 injured in Katra mishap**

JAMMU, Aug 9: The nappings of driver of a bus today snatched four lives and left 28 others injured, nine of them critically, as the vehicle plunged into 150 ft deep gorge on Katra-Jammu road in the wee hours today. The ill-fated vehicle, bearing registration number JK01Y-0262 was on its way from Katra to Jammu when due to nappings the driver could not see the sharp curve near Moori village under the jurisdiction of Katra Police Station resulting into plunging of the vehicle into a deep gorge.

Daily Excelsior, 10 August 2005

**Top Jaish commander, 2 jawans killed in Poonch**

JAMMU, Aug 9: A top Jaish-e-Mohammed commander was today gunned down by Army and police at Bhatti Dhar in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district. Since his identity has been established as Abu Khalid alias Kari Magheer, police was investigating whether he was 'Kari commander', the most wanted Jaish militant and mastermind of Ayodhya fidayeen attack. Two Army jawans were also killed in the same operation and another jawan was seriously injured. A shepherd was beaten to death by the militants in Thanna Mandi.

Daily Excelsior, 10 August 2005

**PDP leader shot at, back looted**

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 : One person was killed while as a ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader was shot at in Kashmir during the past 24 hours. Militants shot at and wounded a ruling PDP leader Ghulam Hassan Bhat at Agland Wachi in south Kashmir today. He was admitted to the Bone and Joint Hospital here. Militants fired a rifle grenade at a BSF picket located at Mohalla Sheikh Sahib picket at Sopore last night, causing injuries to two jawans. The militants later escaped under the cover of darkness.

Daily Excelsior, 10 August 2005

**Army chief to visit J&K today**

NEW DELHI, AUG 9: Army Chief Gen J J Singh will undertake a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow to review border deployment and expedite work on repair of the anti-militancy fence along the Line of Control (LoC). Singh, during his visit will chair a meeting of the high officers of Northern Command, Srinagar based 15 Corp and Nagrota based 16 Corp to beef up measures to stop ingress of over 1,500 hardcore Pakistani mercenaries to sneak in from across the LoC.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

**IPRA organises DACs' joint meeting**

Srinagar, Aug 9: The Institute of Peace Research and Action (IPRA) under project CROKSY convened a joint meeting of members of district advisory committees (DAC) of all the six districts of valley today in the conference hall at Shivpora here. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Susheela Bhan, director IPRA. Siraj-ud-Din, chief coordinator, and Aziz Hajini also attended the meeting. The meeting was convened to work out the modalities for launching a community programme under project CROKSY. So far the project was working in 180 schools of Kashmir and organizing educational / literary programmes to revive the rich cultural ethos of Kashmir.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

**Civil-military conference held**

Srinagar: A civil-military conference chaired by Commander 3 Sector Rashtriya Rifles Brigadier Prahalad Singh was held at Ganderbal today. According to a defence statement, prominent citizens, para military forces and police officials participated in the conference. The aim of the meeting was to discuss arrangements for the Republic Day, the balance of Amarnath Yatra, security, development projects and empowerment projects for women and youth. Prominent local citizens also came in strength to meet the commander. The locals stressed that good administration and liaison between various agencies has been a forte of Ganderbal.

Dawn, 11 August 2005

**Aziz rejects status quo on Kashmir (Khaleeq Kiani)**

TOKYO, Aug 9: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Tuesday that status quo on Kashmir was unacceptable to

Pakistan as progress on other issues with India was not possible without resolving the core issue. Speaking at the Japan Institute of International Affairs on 'The situation in and around South Asia and future prospects for the South Asian region,' the prime minister said resolution of the Kashmir issue would lead to peace and progress in the region. He said Kashmiris must get an opportunity to decide their future and any solution must reflect the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. The three stakeholders had to sit across the table to arrive at a solution, he added. The prime minister also responded to questions from the audience on China's role in the Gwadar port plan, terrorism, nuclear programme, Pakistan-India peace process, the Kashmir issue and misconceptions about Islam.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Centre approves Rs 78-cr package for migrants** (Gopal Sharma)

JAMMU, Aug 10: The Centre has cleared a Rs 78 cr relief package for the border migrants involving allotment of plots of 5 marlas and compensation among nearly 6070 families of 21 villages in Chhamb and Akhnoor constituencies of district Jammu. Congress president Sonia Gandhi is likely to visit Akhnoor tentatively on September 22 along with Home Minister Shivraj Patil and Housing & Urban Development Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad to hand over allotment papers of land among the border migrants in a function to be organized by the PCC (I). The sources in the Congress party said that the package was cleared in a Cabinet meeting held in the Union capital late last evening.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Security further beefed up** (Mohinder Verma)

JAMMU, Aug 10: Security forces recovered an explosive filled pen from Gate Number one at Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in the wee hours yesterday. Following the recovery of the pen bomb, security has been beefed up right from holy town of Katra to Bhawan and internal inquiry has been ordered to find out the lapses. Police sources told the EXCELSIOR that in the wee hours yesterday the Safai Karamcharis while performing official duty noticed an extra-ordinary pen in heap of belongings of the pilgrims at Gate Number one and became suspicious. They immediately brought the matter to the notice of security personnel deployed at Gate Number one and bomb disposal squad.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Rise in infiltration: Govt**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: There has been an increase in cross border infiltration during June and July and a rise in militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir in the last few months, the Rajya Sabha was informed today. Army has been successful in eliminating a large number of infiltration bids in the State in June and July killing several militants during these bids, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in a written reply. On the rising militant activities in the State, he said Government is monitoring the situation closely, and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is continuing is based on the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Co-ordination group on J&K meets**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Government's coordination group on Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Centre's special representative N N Vohra, today met and held deliberations on various aspects related to the State, including the dialogue process with the cross-section of the society there. The group, which comprises top officials of the Ministries of Home and External Affairs, undertook a detailed review of all developments related to the State, official sources said. The issues on agenda included militancy situation, status of infiltration, activities across the border and the dialogue process, they said.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Two IEDs defused on highway**

JAMMU, Aug 10: Two Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) were defused by Army on Jammu-Srinagar national highway this morning prior to the movement of Amarnath yatra convoy. A three kg IED, wrapped in a tin box and concealed under stones, was detected by troops of 22 Mech at Nashri nullah between Batote and Ramban at 8 am today and defused on spot. Another IED was activated by a Road Opening Party (ROP) of Army near Banihal, official sources said. Troops recovered a large quantity of material used in fabricating IEDs from village Chansi in Rajouri district. Recoveries include 200 transistors, 400 capacitors, 70 battery containers, three meters wire, 12 boxes, 19 detonators, metallic tubes filled with explosive switches and IED switches. Militants set ablaze house of a SPO Muzaffar Hussain Malik son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din at Bharat in Doda district.

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2005

**Army chief visits forward areas**

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: In view of the sudden increase in the infiltration from across the border during the past two months, Chief of the Army Staff, General J J Singh today visited forward areas to assess the ground situation. General Singh, who was received by the GoC 15 Corps Lt General S S Dhillon at the airfield, visited the formation headquarter involved in counter-infiltration and counter-terrorism operations. A defence ministry spokesman however said that it was a routine visit of the Army Chief to the Valley to assess the situation on ground. During his visit to forward area, he was given a detailed brief by the field commanders on the prevailing situation on the ground.

Greater Kashmir, 11 August 2005

**Pakistan not satisfied with dialogue pace**

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Islamabad, Aug 10: Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of the dialogue with India over Kashmir issue and emphasized the need to accelerate the process. 'The pace of the talks over the Kashmir issue is not according to Pakistan's desire,' Kasuri said, adding that there was a need to accelerate the ongoing composite dialogue process with India over Kashmir. Rejecting as 'baseless' reports of joint military exercises by the United States, Britain and India in Jammu and Kashmir, Kasuri said that all the countries were aware that regional peace was impossible without first resolving the Kashmir issue. India should begin talks with Kashmiris before Pakistan and India sit down for talks, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

**90 passengers cross sides on 10th 'Karvaan-e-Aman'**

SRINAGAR, Aug 11: Altogether 90 passengers on board the tenth "Karvaan-e-Aman (Caravan of Peace)" crossed the Line of Control (LoC) today amid tight security arrangements, official sources said. While 51 passengers crossed over to Muzaffarabad from the Kaman Post, 39 people from across the border arrived here this evening. The sources said 33 fresh and 18 returnee passengers in the two specially-designed 19-seater Ashok Leyland Stag State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) buses left here for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) capital Muzaffarabad at around 0800 hrs this morning. A large number of people, comprising relatives, friends and well-wishers, sent off the passengers, they added.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

**Centre allows Mirwaiz to visit Saudi Arabia**

SRINAGAR, Aug 11: As a goodwill gesture, the Centre today allowed moderate Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to visit Saudi Arabia to offer condolences to the royal family on the death of late King Fahd Bin Abdelaziz, and also to perform 'Umrah'. The Centre's decision to allow the Mirwaiz to travel abroad is seen as a positive gesture ahead of the possible talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the moderate Hurriyat leaders. The Mirwaiz left for Jeddah today on a ten-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will pay condolences to the royal family and perform 'Umrah', a Hurriyat spokesman said here.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

**Two injured in grenade blast**

Srinagar, Aug 11: One person was killed and two others injured in separate incidents of violence in the Valley since Wednesday evening, official sources said. According to details, unidentified gunmen, last night abducted and later killed one Abdur Rehman Dar, an employee of Irrigation department, of Beighpora Awantipora. Sources said that Rehman was abducted by arms wielding unidentified gunmen from his house and police, today, recovered his body from Kawani village in Awantipora in south Kashmir district of Pulwama.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

**12,000 voters' names written wrongly (Dinesh Manhotra)**

JAMMU, Aug 11: Even as the authorities are claiming to have prepared 'accurate' revised electoral rolls, names of more than 12000 voters have been either deleted or wrongly written in the voter lists of Jammu district alone. As the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has extended the date for filing claims in revision of electoral rolls, it is believed that this number will increase manifold as the voters have been given an opportunity to file their objections.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

### **Candle light vigil at Wagah**

JALANDHAR, Aug 11: The Hind-Pak Dosti Manch (HPDM) would organize candle light vigil on Indo-Pak border at Wagah and a seminar on 'Indo-Pak Relations-Problems and Solution' at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) on August 14 for strengthening of ties between both the countries. 'To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Indo-Pak peace campaign launched by Kuldip Nayyar by lighting candles at border on night of August 14, the Manch would hold a seminar at (GNDU) to deliberate on the problems coming in the way of Indo-Pak relations and their solutions, Satnam Singh Manak told reporters here today.

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2005

### **Jaish militant held in Mendhar**

JAMMU, Aug 11: A Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militant was today arrested by Army and police from Nakka Majari in Mendhar tehsil in Poonch district. He has been identified as Mohd Rafiq alias Lasha son of Abdul Aziz R/o Nakka Majari. Official sources said the militant was arrested during a joint raid conducted by Army and police in a hide-out. He was being traced since last fortnight. After preliminary questioning, he was handed over to Mendhar police. Army destroyed a hide-out of the militants at village Morian in Thanna Mandi area of Rajouri district and recovered two pistols, four magazines, 55 rounds, six anti-personnel mines, two RPG rounds, two detonators, one box, two gas cylinders with explosives, 150 rounds of 7.62mm, three Chinese grenades and nine UBGL grenades.

Daily Excelsior, 13 August 2005

### **Special focus on Gujjars, Paharis: CM**

BANDIPORE, Aug 12: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has reiterated his resolve to take the development process to remote areas of the State saying the Gujjars, Paharis and Pakhtoons living in high mountains are in special focus of the Government's development strategy. He was addressing a one day Gujjar Convention organised by the Gujjar Dehat Sudhar Forum here today. A large number of people including from the adjacent areas had descended on the venue. Later, Mr Sayeed also addressed the All J&K Pakhtoon jirga at Watlar, Ganderbal. The jirga had attracted a large number of Pakhtoons. The Chief Minister said that his Government has embarked upon a development strategy that accords special attention to remote and backward areas, hitherto literally hidden from the human eye. He said all the regions and areas within these regions are provided equal opportunities of development.

Daily Excelsior, 13 August 2005

### **Training camps still operational: Patil**

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Acknowledging terrorists activities in Jammu and Kashmir had come down in the first seven months of 2005, Home Minister Shivraj Patil today said that a number of "training camps" were still operational in Pakistan. "Pakistan has to ensure that peace prevails," he said, in his reply in the discussion on terrorist activities in the country, including the Ayodhya attack, in the Lok Sabha. The discussion was initiated by BJP MP Vijay Kumar Malhotra on August 4. Avoiding charging Pakistan directly for the terrorist activities in the country, particularly the Ayodhya terrorist attack, the Minister said that the Government's policy was not to name anyone.

Daily Excelsior, 13 August 2005

### **5 killed, 3 injured in Mahore massacre**

JAMMU, Aug 12: Militants tonight struck at village Chajru in Mahore tehsil of Reasi police district killing five civilians of minority community and seriously injuring three others. SSP Reasi Jagdish Lal Sharma told Excelsior late tonight that a group of militants attacked village Chajru in Mahore tehsil at 10.30 pm tonight and opened indiscriminate firing on two houses killing five members of minority community on spot and wounding three others. Mr Sharma said the Indian Reserve Police (IRP) personnel, who were nearest to the site of carnage, were first to reach the spot but by then the militants, believed to be four in number, had managed to escape. Later, Army and police teams also left for the spot to launch a search operation for the militants.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

### **Pak links free trade to Kashmir**

Hong Kong, Aug 12: Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Friday his country won't trade freely with India until their territorial dispute over Kashmir is resolved. "With India, free trade and investment ... has to move in tandem with progress on overall relations with the two countries, and the main issue is ... Kashmir," Aziz said during an official visit to Hong Kong. "Progress on free trade and investment will be linked to progress on the issue," he said. But Aziz said once the dispute is resolved, there is good potential for trade ties between the neighbors.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

### **2 killed in JK**

Srinagar: Two persons were killed in separate incidents across the state since Thursday. Police Friday recovered the headless body of a contractor from Gund Wachna Bandipore a month after he went missing. According to KNS Muhammad Yasin Mir son of Abdul Rehman went missing on July 15, 2005. Unidentified gunmen abducted and shot dead a village defence committee member (VDC) Jamal Din son of Rustum Gani of Mavikote Barakund Sangaldan on Thursday night. The gunmen also took away his .303 rifle. Hours after chief minister Mufti M Sayeed left after addressing a rally at Bandipore, suspected militants lobbed a grenade on a patrol party of troops near the local Jamia Masjid which exploded with a deafening explosion causing damage to the residence of Ali Muhammad son of Ghulam Ahmad.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

### **Lidder river bears brunt of Yatra pollution (ARSHAD HAMID)**

Pahalgam, Aug 12: The efforts of the Municipal Committee Authorities here and Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) to check the pollution at yatra camp sites enroute the Amarnath cave have failed this year too. Like every year the effluents from kitchens (langars) and makeshift latrines empty into river Lidder, a major attraction in the world famous tourist spot of Pahalgam. The continuous pollution of the river, according to experts, is likely to cause waterborne diseases among the inhabitants of hundreds of villages who consume water from it. It has also posed a threat to the aquatic life in the roaring river. As per official figures about 3.5 lakh yatris, majority of who were sadhus, have visited the cave through this route this year. Last year the figure stood at 2.5 lakh.

Greater Kashmir, 13 August 2005

### **Dreaded Govt gunman arrested in Handwara (SHABIR IBN YUSUF)**

Moonbal (Mawar), Aug 12: Police on Thursday arrested a dreaded government gunman who had murdered a labourer, dumped his body somewhere, and during detention escaped from custody, in Langate area of Kupwara district. The residents of this village, 22 km from Handwara, heaved a sigh of relief when they heard about the arrest of the dreaded gunman, Nazir Khatana son of Deen Khatana of Moonbal. According to Superintendent of Police Handwara, Nitish Kumar, the government gunman was involved in the abduction and murder of the labourer, besides extortion. Khatana was working for Rashtriya Rifles of the Army, the locals said.

The Indian Express, 14 August 2005

### **Militants kill 5 Hindus in Jammu village**

JAMMU, AUGUST 13: In a strike just two days before Independence Day, militants killed five Hindus and injured nine others in Udhampur district on Friday night. The injured include three minor girls. No outfit has so far claimed responsibility for the massacre, which shattered a comparative lull of two years in the area. Sources said the attack came when the victims were sleeping in Shajroo village. The militants, 20 in number, first killed two village defence committee (VDC) members sleeping on the roof of a house. After this, they entered the house, hurled hand grenades, and opened fire. The dead include VDC members Sabaz Ram and Ishar Dass along with three boys — Narinder Singh, Charan Singh and Balwant Singh. Three girls (aged two to seven), two women and four men were injured.

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

### **Security put on high alert on I-Day (Sarwar Kashani)**

Srinagar, Aug 13: With only one day left for the Independence Day celebrations, the entire Valley, in general, and the summer capital, Srinagar in particular, is witnessing an unprecedented security grid within and around everywhere, while as people in Srinagar and outskirts are fearing to move freely on the streets as an 'invisible' ghost of security threat seems to be roaming around. Major deployment of police and para-military forces is seen at every cubbyhole of summer capital while as every vehicular movement is being keenly watched and forces busy in checking and noting down registration number of every vehicle that crosses certain points in uptown Srinagar. Amid this sense of insecurity a large chunk of population is stealing the movement and has already started for excursions to the picnic spots for the next two days. In lieu of recent surge in militant attacks at crucial points in Srinagar, police and other concerned officials seem to be leaving no stone unturned to thwart any militant attack on or before Independence Day celebrations on August 15, Monday.

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

### **3 LeT militants, 2 jawans killed in Rafiabad encounter**

Srinagar, Aug 13: Three Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed while as two soldiers also lost their lives during an encounter at village Khudwani, Rafiabad in north Kashmir district of Baramulla. Security Forces averted a major tragedy from happening and recovered a powerful IED at National Highway near Pantha Chowk, Athwajan on Saturday morning. Defense sources told the EXCELSIOR that, troopers belonging to 32 RR, - after receiving a tip

off - launched a major operation to flush out the hiding militants in the village Khudwani of Baramulla and a cordon was laid around the area. During search operations, troopers came under a heavy gunfire from the militants, which subsequently ensued into a fierce gun battle. The troopers, during the prolonged encounter, gunned down three militants, belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba militant outfit, while as two troopers also lost their lives, sources said. Two of the three slain militants were identified as Khwaja Jaleel-ur-Rehman Siddiquee and Abu Qasim Shakargarhi both of Multan Pakistan. The third militant, killed in the encounter, wasn't identified, while as, sources refused to identify the names of the slain troopers saying that the names couldn't be revealed unless their families were informed.

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

#### **Helicopter recce by Army at Katra**

JAMMU, Aug 13: Security around Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has been intensified following the intelligence reports of possible attack on the shrine, on the similar pattern of recent misadventure at Ayodhya, by the terrorists to gain media gaze. Informed sources said that terrorists were feeling increasingly frustrated due to the shifting of focus from Kashmir to London and Iraq and it is to this end that they might target one of the most revered shrines in Jammu and Kashmir. The sources said that based on these inputs, the security forces have increased the vigil in and around Katra as well as routes leading to the holy shrine. The helicopter based recce of the areas around the shrine has also been carried out by Army to identify likely routes which could be adopted by the terrorists to accomplish their nefarious designs.

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

#### **Expedite Kashmir solution: Musharraf**

LONDON, Aug 13: Acknowledging India's sincerity in resolving the Kashmir problem, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said the process should be expedited to enable him to deal with extremism firmly. "I see the sincerity of the Indian leadership. But if we can move faster towards a resolution of Kashmir my hands will be stronger to deal with extremism," Musharraf said in an interview to the 'Daily Telegraph' published today. "I have told the Indians we can only control extremists to a degree. But there will be nowhere for the extremists to go once there is a settlement on Kashmir," he said. Answering a question on the success he has achieved in dealing with extremists, Musharraf admitted that previously his hands were tied, either because of the 10-month-long confrontation with India in 2002 or the last general elections or political insecurities at home and abroad. "The situation is now far different from what I faced before," he said. "Now I am much stronger."

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

#### **SFC inquiry blames militants**

JAMMU, Aug 13: While the State Forest Corporation's preliminary report has alleged militants' involvement in the burning down of over 15,000 timber sleepers at an SFC depot in Shashu area of Paddar in Kishtwar on August 6, the Minister for Forests has yet to constitute an independent inquiry committee to reveal the detail facts. Talking to the Excelsior, Managing Director of the State Forest Corporation, V K Zadoo said that as per the preliminary report sent by his Divisional Manager, Kishtwar Mr Mintoo, some armed militants forced their entry into the depot in Shashu Forest area of Paddar around 7-8 pm on that fateful day and set the timber on fire. The field staff members, could not resist in front of armed men. He said that area is away from road and there was no road communication.

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2005

#### **11,000 industrial units non-existent in J&K: DyCM**

JAMMU, Aug 13: Deputy Chief Minister Pt Mangat Ram Sharma has said that about 11,000 industrial units are non-existent in Jammu and Kashmir and the case has been given to the Vigilance department for investigation. Speaking at a function organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to felicitate Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, A Sahasramanan here this evening, the DyCM said that after he took over, some untraceable units came to the notice of his officers. An inquiry was initiated and it was found that nearly 11,000 industrial units upto 2003 were untraceable. He said that in most of the cases the record was not available and the individuals who had managed loan/ incentives had never installed the unit and utilised the money for the purpose. From the record of five years some 651 units could be identified by the investigating agency and in last one and half year no much progress has come out. The SVO has been directed to intensify the probe into the case as the money involved is in crores, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2005

#### **Peace not a distant dream: Sinha**

SRINAGAR, Aug 14: Saying that international terrorism has become a scourge threatening the survival of all

human and civilisational values in the Twenty First Century, Governor, Lt. Gen (Retd) S K Sinha today exuded confidence that the invincible weapon for fighting this curse is 'our unique and rich legacy of the spirit of Kashmiriyat'. "Let this great heritage of our country provide the light of hope and harmony to all the people of the world," the Governor said in his message on 59th Independence Day. He wished happiness and felicitated the compatriots on this auspicious occasion. Expressing optimism about peace dawning in the sub continent, the Governor said the peace process has been gaining momentum in both India and Pakistan. The opening of the Srinagar – Muzaffrabad Road has not only joined broken hearts but has ushered a new era of hope and harmony which should be further strengthened in the coming days when roads Kargil – Skardu, Poonch – Rawalkote, and Jammu Sialkot also get reopened, he said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are sick and tired of terrorist violence.

The Indian Express, 16 August 2005

**Rattled by rumours, Srinagar heads for the hills (RIYAZ WANI)**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14: A hush has descended on Srinagar, on the broad stretches of the deserted markets, on the boulevard along Dal lake, along river Jhelum and on the congested downtown localities. Hours to go for the Independence Day function at the Bakshi stadium here, security forces have taken over the roads. With rumours of car and human bombs doing the rounds, nobody is taking any chances. "We have Intelligence inputs that militants are planning car-bomb attacks. But we are taking preventive and detective measures to pre-empt any such attempt," says DIG, Kashmir, H K Lohia. The empty bazaars of the city may have made the job easier. Srinagar wears the look of a city without its people. Even in the deep interiors, in the lanes and bylanes of the city, far away from the heavy security bandobast, the movement is less than usual. So where have the people gone? The answer comes from a policeman at a checking point. "What are you doing here in the city? Why have you not gone to Gulmarg or Pahalgam," he asks passers-by who line up to be searched.

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2005

**Time to talk peace: Mufti**

Srinagar, Aug 14: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has felicitated people on the 59th Independence Day saying the auspicious occasion is being celebrated in the State with the resolve to untiringly work for lasting peace. In a message, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that the State would march ahead on the path of development. "The Independence Day is an event to be celebrated with joy and fervour remembering those innumerable countrymen who laid down their lives during the freedom struggle," he said, adding his thoughts also go for the thousands of people who have been consumed by the senseless violence in the State during the long turmoil. Lauding India's democratic character, Mr Sayeed said while rapid development in areas like science, technology, agriculture, IT and industry has earned it a distinguished place in the comity of nations, he thinks the system of democracy prevalent in the country has given it the worldwide respect and honour.

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2005

**Sharp shooters deployed in Kashmir, 200 detained**

SRINAGAR, Aug 14: Sharp shooters have been deployed in and around vital installations and almost all high rise buildings in the summer capital on the eve of Independence Day. Security forces and police have taken about 200 known trouble makers and former militants into preventive custody. Security forces and police recovered about 150 kg explosives and RDX which was smuggled into the city from outskirts during the past two weeks. A number of militants responsible for causing blasts have also been taken into custody. A correspondent who visited a number of localities in the city saw almost deserted streets with only security forces wearing bullet proof jackets and holding automatic weapons deployed on both sides of the roads. However, it was totally different in and around the Bakshi stadium, venue for ID main function where Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed will unfurl the national flag, which will be followed by a number of cultural and other programmes.

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2005

**40,000 pilgrims stranded at Katra**

JAMMU, Aug 14: Over 40,000 pilgrims were stranded at Katra, base camp of Mata Vaishnodevi shrine, tonight even as the authorities temporarily suspended pilgrimage to the Bhawan from Katra as well as Jammu. Official sources attributed the sudden rush to widely revered shrine to holidays. "All roads leading to Katra are totally jammed. From Domel on Jammu-Srinagar national highway to Aghar Jitto in Reasi and from Tikri in Udhampur to Katra, there were a large queues of stranded vehicles", SDPO Katra Anil Magotra told the Excelsior tonight. He said all police personnel and Traffic cops have been pressed into service to clear the traffic jams. He added that the pilgrims continued to pour into Katra town despite repeated appeals to them to stay put in Jammu in view of heavy rush at Katra.

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2005

### **Amarnath yatra suspended on I-Day**

JAMMU, Aug 14: Amarnath yatra was today suspended in view of militant threats to carry out attacks on the occasion of Independence Day. In view of the security situation on the eve of Independence Day, Amarnath yatra from Jammu to Pahalgam has been suspended as also from Pahalgam to the cave shrine, top official sources said. "Today's batch of pilgrims has cancelled its journey in view of apprehension of a militant attack and no pilgrims today journeyed towards Pahalgam from Jammu," they said. No pilgrim would be allowed to move to Kashmir valley tomorrow as well, they said adding the last batch of pilgrims will leave for holy cave from the transit camp of M A Stadium here on August 17.

The Hindu, 16 August 2005

### **IED explodes near Srinagar stadium (Shujaat Bukhari)**

SRINAGAR: Security arrangements in Srinagar and other major towns and a general strike called by separatist organisations disrupted normal life in the State on Monday. Besides an explosion outside the "fortified" Bakhshi Stadium here, militants made attempts in Pattan, Baramulla and Sopore to disrupt the Independence Day celebrations. Schoolchildren panic. An improvised explosive device (IED), planted at an adjacent park and fitted with a time device, burst an hour before Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was scheduled to arrive at the Bakhshi stadium. The explosion caused panic among the schoolchildren, who had come to take part in the march past.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

### **LeT ultra held in Rajouri with grenade**

JAMMU, Aug 15: Police today arrested a Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant minutes before he could lob a grenade on a police party in Thanna Mandi area of Rajouri district. In another incident, a militant lobbed a grenade outside the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) in Kishtwar causing injuries to two persons including a police constable while a militant was killed in Gool. DIG Rajouri-Poonch range V K Singh said an alert police party nabbed a LeT militant in Thanna Mandi at 4.45 pm today as soon as he brought out a grenade from his pocket to lob it on the police party. The grenade was recovered from him and defused later", police sources said. The militant has been identified as Zamoorat Hussain son of Mohd Latief, a resident of Khanayal Kot. His associate Javed Ahmed R/o Dharra, Thanna Mandi, slipped away when Zamoorat was captured by the police personnel. Police was searching him.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

### **Dy CM for liberation of PoK, areas occupied by China**

JAMMU, Aug 15: Calling upon political parties to unitedly face challenges before the country, Deputy Chief Minister, Mangat Ram Sharma today said that Congress' party stand on Kashmir was very much clear and there was no confusion about it. "As far as Congress is concerned, our stand is clear on Kashmir and for us it is not a dispute as is for other political parties", Mr Sharma said while addressing Independence Day function at Mini Stadium after unfurling national tricolour here this morning amidst scorching heat and humid atmosphere. He asserted that the future of Jammu and Kashmir was safe only with India and all political groups must work for further strengthening relations with the Union.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

### **Pakistan snubs Geelani**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 15: In an apparent snub to hardline Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Pakistan today said it would not like to decide who was the true representative of Kashmiri people and it had no preference for any particular person to lead the amalgam. "It was not for Pakistan to decide as to who is the true representative of the Kashmiri people," Pakistan's Foreign office spokesman Naeem Khan told reporters when asked whether Pakistan would recognise Geelani as the Hurriyat leader. "Pakistan had no preference for any leader and it was to be decided within the All Party Hurriyat Conference," he added. "We would like the APHC to be associated with the peace process," Khan said on possibility of talks between Indian Government and leader of moderate Hurriyat faction Mirwaiz Farooq.

The Hindu, 16 August 2005

### **President Kalam hosts 'At Home' for dignitaries**

NEW DELHI: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam hosted an "At Home" on the occasion of the 59th Independence Day on Monday. Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, Home Minister Shivraj Patil and other dignitaries, including members of the diplomatic corps, attended the reception on the sprawling lawns of

the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The Hindu, 16 August 2005

**Mufti calls for consensus on Kashmir issue** (Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on Monday called for a consensus in India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and urged the two countries to move ahead with the peace process. He advocated an inclusive dialogue between the Centre and the people of all three regions of the State. Unfurling the national flag at the Bakshi Stadium here, Mr. Sayeed said peace had become imperative as the "people of the State were tired of violence and the gun culture." The then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan from Srinagar and later the UPA Government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh further strengthened the process. "We must back the Prime Minister in his efforts to bring peace in the region of which we will be beneficiaries." The leaders in India and Pakistan had to take with them the entire population of their countries for resolving the issue.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

**Dismantle terror infrastructure totally: PM to Pak**

NEW DELHI, Aug 15: Extending a fresh invitation to anyone interested in dialogue in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today made it clear to Pakistan that the entire infrastructure of terrorism should be "totally dismantled" as "half-hearted" efforts at curbing terrorists cannot succeed. He also told the rebel groups that if violence continued, "then our response to it will be hard". In his second Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister said in the context of terrorism and extremism, development and security have an intrinsic relationship. "Extremism is a challenge which requires a united response from all of us. However, it is also necessary to look at a political resolution of this problem," he said.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

**Mufti flays HR activists for double standards**

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has called for an inclusive dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir involving all three regions even as he lashed out at people indulging in double standards on human rights. Addressing Independence Day function at the historic Bakshi Stadium here today, he said the Centre is open to unconditional talks on Jammu and Kashmir which should also include different shades of opinion apart from the separatist groups. "The State comprised of three regions and wishes of the people in these regions have to be accommodated in the process of dialogue," asserted. Stressing need to take forward the process of peace and reconciliation, Mr Sayeed asked for people's continued support to the process.

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2005

**Holy mace leaves for Pahalgam**

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Though the Amarnath yatra remained suspended for the second consecutive day today due to the apprehensions of terrorist attacks on the occasion of Independence Day, the Chhari Mubarak the holy mace of Lord Shiva left for Pahalgam, the traditional base camp of Swami Amarnath from Dashnami Akhara Srinagar early this morning under tight security escort. According to official sources no yatra was allowed to leave the M A Stadium transit camp, Jammu for Pahalgam for the second day today as there were apprehensions of terrorist attacks on the occasion of Independence Day. The yatra from Pahalgam to holy cave remained also suspended on the second day today, they added. It may be recalled that the yatra was officially suspended yesterday due to the threat perception.

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2005

**Mufti opposes trifurcation of J&K**

CHANDIGARH, Aug 16: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said he was against trifurcating the State into Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, as suggested by some groups, adding that any further division would be destructive for the people of that State. "We cannot go back to 1947 to further divide the State," Mr Sayeed said in response to a question at 'Meet the Press' programme at the Chandigarh Press Club here. Stating that there was no ready-made solution to the Kashmir problem, he said it had to be evolved through dialogue with all the groups and individuals representing the people of Kashmir. "Looking for the solution is an evolutionary process," he said. Mr Sayeed said the Hurriyat and other groups leaning to separatism would have to be included in the dialogue process on the Kashmir problem. He added that the Hurriyat Conference should participate in elections as democracy now prevailed in J and K and people of the State having full faith in the electoral process. Commenting that "gun is no solution to Kashmir problem", Mr Sayeed, however, said that the

Army had to play its role in maintaining peace in the state with the efforts of minimising the human rights violations.

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2005

**PM's offer of talks fails to enthuse separatists** (Sarwar Kashani)

Srinagar, Aug 16: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort has failed to excite separatist leadership in Kashmir vis-?-vis talks on the Kashmir issue. While as hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference finds it 'insubstantial', its moderate faction has described it as 'vague'. The Prime Minister had expressed Government of India's desire to talk to any group to solve problems, 'unconditionally', while keeping the doors of dialogue open. The separatist leadership did not read much into the speech of Prime Minister wherein he put forth a fresh invitation to anyone (without mentioning any specific group) interested in dialogue over Jammu and Kashmir. Leader of the moderate faction of separatist alliance All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Bilal Gani Lone while reacting to Prime Minister's speech said that "the speech is vague and sans specific details." "We (Hurriyat Conference) are not desperate for talks but our endeavor has always been to resolve Kashmir dispute through meaningful talks. The speech of Manmohan Singh is meaningless," Lone said.

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2005

**Shrine Board not under control of State: HC**

SRINAGAR, Aug 16: Division Bench of the State High Court, comprising Chief Justice SN Jha and Justice RC Gandhi has decided batch of Letters Patent Appeals and writ petitions on remand from the Supreme Court and decided that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has been constituted under a Statute and, therefore, has a statutory status. In absence of any kind, even an iota of control of Government ?financial or administrative? it cannot be said to be State or an authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. In an LPA, a point was raised that the petitioners were employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. They had formed a union and was registered with the Registrar of Trade Union J&K on December 11, 1990. On January 15, 1991, the Registrar of Trade Unions had informed the president Shrine Board Employees Union that they could not form a trade union as the Shrine Board was not a trade or industry.

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2005

**HuM commander among 4 killed**

Srinagar, Aug 16: Four militants, including Harkat-ul-Mujahideen district commander, were killed while as a Deputy Superintendent of Police was injured in separate encounters at different places in Kashmir valley today. Police recovered a body, chopped in pieces, of a missing shopkeeper from Pulwama district. An IED blast at Jamaat activist's house in Tral, damaged five houses and injured two persons. According to details, a joint party of 15 RR and 22 RR, last night, cordoned off a village Janwara in Sopore. Sources said that militants, hiding in the area, opened fire on the troops during which a fierce gun battle erupted between militants and the troopers. The encounter continued till 1400 hours, sources said, adding that two militants, including a Lashkar-e-Toiba, Abu Rafia, were killed in the prolonged encounter. A residential house belonging to one, Mohammed Sultan Shah, a Jamaat-e-Islami activist, also got damaged in the encounter. District commander of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) was killed while as DySP Task Forces was injured in an encounter at village Matipora in south Kashmir district of Anantnag, sources said.

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2005

**HM OGW killed by militants**

JAMMU, Aug 16: An Over Ground Worker (OGW) of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit was shot dead by the rival militants at village Bhagrana in Kishtwar tehsil of Doda district last night. He has been identified as Shamshuddin son of Wali Mohd Bhat R/o Bhagrana. Defence sources said Shamshuddin was a known OGW and brother-in-law of Mohd Amin alias Jehangir, 'tehsil commander' of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. SSP Rajouri J P Singh said troops of 60 Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group (SOG) destroyed a hide-out of the militants at Kandi in Rajouri district today and recovered four RPGs, five boosters, cortex wire and detonators. An encounter took place between militants and security forces at Tuli Bana post in Mahore tehsil of Reasi police district last night. The militants escaped leaving behind 159 LMG rounds, 165 rounds of 7.62mm SLR, 31 rounds of 5.56mm Insas and two para bombs.

Daily Times, 17 August 2005

**Second Baglihar tunnel collapses after landslide** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Work on the controversial Baglihar hydroelectric power project hit another snag when one of its diversion tunnels collapsed due to a landslide late on Sunday. This is the second tunnel that has collapsed within the past two months. Reports stated that a landslide hit the dam's site, which blocked the flow of Chenab River for

more than an hour, causing the dam to overflow. Work on the dam, which had recently picked up after flash floods submerged most of the project's site, was suspended again, said contractors Jai Prakash Associates. Sources said that due to landslides in the area the cable crane system had also developed cracks. At least three blocks of the system had collapsed and fallen in Chenab, sources added. "Due to soil erosion more than 100,000 cubic metres of a hill slid on Sunday, which choked Diversion Tunnel I at the dam's site," Syed Muzaffar Hussain, chief engineer of the project, said. "But the dam and all permanent structures of the power project are safe," he added.

Greatr Kashmir, 17 August 2005

#### **Pak welcomes PM's invite to Hurriyat**

Srinagar, Aug 16: Seeking a trilateral framework for dialogue on Kashmir, Pakistan on Monday guardedly welcomed India's renewed offer of holding talks with Hurriyat Conference and held that division in Hurriyat ranks was the grouping's internal matter. Quoting Pakistan's foreign office spokesman, Nayeem Khan, reports from Islamabad suggested that Indian premier Dr. Manmohan Singh's desire, which he aired in his Independence Day speech, had gone well with Pakistani policy about Kashmir resolution. However, according to reports, Dr. Singh's remark about Pakistan's failure to curb the "terrorist infrastructure" evoked even stronger response. "This is a positive development," Pakistan F.O spokesman was quoted as responded to PM's fresh offer of talks with Kashmiri separatists specifically Mirwaiz-led grouping of All Parities Hurriyat Conference.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **Car bomb kills CRPF jawan, injures eight**

Srinagar, Aug 17: At least nine persons, including three civilians and six CRPF troopers were injured in a powerful car bomb explosion in Qazigund, in south Kashmir district of Anantnag today. One of the injured troopers later succumbed. Sources said that a powerful bomb laden in a white Maruti 800, went off, today, when the security personnel, of 5 Bn CRPF guarding the Nowpora residence of MLA Devsar constituency, Sartaj Madni, were returning after shopping from Anantnag main market. Six CRPF troopers were critically injured in the blast, one of whom, identified as H R Gidam succumbed later, sources said.

The Hindu, 18 August 2005

#### **Fatwa on veil**

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Muslim women should not contest elections and, if they have to, they should do it with the veil on, says a fatwa issued by the Darool Uloom of Deoband on Tuesday. It said those contesting panchayat elections should cover their faces. This evoked a sharp reaction from political parties.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **SPO killed, 3 kidnapped**

Excelsior Special Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 17: A Special Police Officer (SPO) was killed and three civilians were kidnapped by the militants while a PSO of a National Conference leader deserted the place of his posting along with his service weapon in separate militancy related incidents. In Poonch, a Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teacher was shot dead by some unidentified persons in his house at Mankote last night triggering strong protests from the people this morning leading to blockade of road. An inquiry has been ordered into the incident. Official sources said some unidentified persons dragged ReT teacher Ais Khan son of Bagga Khan from his house when he was sleeping at 10.45 pm last night in Mankote and took him to a field where he was fired upon his chest from point blank range, leading to his on spot death.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **Decision on resuming Baglihar work by Aug end (Mohinder Verma)**

JAMMU, Aug 17: The final decision on technology to be adopted to pave way for immediate resumption of the work on 450-MW Baglihar Hydrel Power Project will be taken by the end of this month. Informed sources told the EXCELSIOR that a team of Engineers of Jai Prakash Industries from outside the State along with representatives of agencies whose consultancy is being sought in the construction of project, today visited the dam site to assess the situation arising out of the blockade of both the diversion tunnels. "After personally assessing the physical condition of the dam site, they decided to put on hold any decision to be taken by them within a day or two till the arrival of chief consultant of the project Mr Boris of German-based company of international repute Lahmayas", they disclosed and said that final decision would be taken in consultation with Mr Boris, who is likely to be back by August 26.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **Poonch militants remanded**

AYODHYA, Aug 17: A court today remanded in judicial custody till August 30, the four Jammu and Kashmir terrorists arrested from Jammu's Poonch district in connection with the July 5 fidayeen attack at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex here. Earlier, the terrorists — Asif Iqbal alias Farooq, Mohd Aziz, Mohd Naim and Shakil Ahmad — were produced in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Jyoti Kumar Tripathi about 1100 hours under tight security arrangements. The same court had remanded them in police custody on August 13, the duration of which was to end today at 1600 hrs.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **Militant held in Ramban**

JAMMU, Aug 17: Security forces and police today arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen militant from village Garhi Kamet in Ramban tehsil when he was heading towards a house to settle a family dispute. He has been identified as Nazir Ahmed, a commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. One AK rifle was recovered from his possession. Official sources said police had a specific information about the movement of Nazir Ahmed to a house where he wanted to meet a girl and settle a family dispute. A trap was laid for him and he was apprehended along with his rifle. He has been whisked away for interrogation. Some more arrests were expected at his disclosures.

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2005

#### **Travel restriction for Hurriyat eased**

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Signalling easing of travel restrictions on Kashmiri separatist leaders, the Government has allowed former Hurriyat Conference chairman Maulana Abbas Ansari to travel to Pakistan for attending a Shia Conference. Ansari, who arrived here last evening from Srinagar, left for Karachi this afternoon by a PIA aircraft where he would be attending the conference. He is likely to travel to Saudi Arabia later, informed sources said. The Government had in the past denied permission to Hurriyat leaders to travel to Pakistan after one of its leaders Sheikh Aziz had indulged in anti-India propaganda.

Daily Excelsior, 19 August 2005

#### **Two Jaish militants among 4 killed**

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: Two militants, affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed militant outfit, were gunned down during an encounter that took place in Karmulla forests Tral in south Kashmir district of Pulwama while as two civilians were killed in separate incidents of violence in the same district. Militants shot at and injured a PSO of a CPI (M) councilor near CPI (M) office in Kulgam. A major tragedy was averted when security forces recovered a powerful IED near a middle school in Baramulla. According to sources, a joint party of SOG Police and 42 RR launched an operation in Karmulla forests in Tral to flush out hiding militants there, during which a fierce gun battle erupted between militants and the troopers. Two militants, believed to having an affiliation with Jaish-e-Mohammed militant outfit, were killed while as a civilian also received bullet injuries in the said encounter, sources said, while identifying the killed militants as Farooq Ahmed Khan of Tral and Mohammed Ali alias Dr Billal of Faisalabad Pakistan.

Daily Times, 19 August 2005

#### **Kashmir health minister joins protest against HR abuses (Iftikhar Gilani)**

NEW DELHI: Abdul Ghaffar Sofi, minister of state for health in Mufti Muhammad Sayeed's cabinet, on Wednesday joined public protests against atrocities committed by the Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir. Reports from the southern town of Anantnag said that Indian troops of the Sani Gaam Camp had cordoned the villages Ghaat and Khudwani and had later arrested several youths, adding that the young men were tortured. After the cordon, people went to the camp seeking the release of their kin but they were forced to return. Abdul Ghaffar Sofi, who was touring the area, joined the protesters and staged a sit-in outside the army camp. The protesters shouted slogans against the Indian troops and demanded an inquiry into the incident. Sofi told a local news agency that he did not oppose search operations for arresting militants but he was dismayed by the use of force against civilians. The minister said that he would discuss the issue with the chief minister and the Srinagar-based corps commander.

Daily Excelsior, 19 August 2005

#### **Amarnath pilgrimage concludes today**

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: The two-month-long incident-free Amarnath yat-ra will come to an end tomorrow on the Raksha Bandhan day as nearly four lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine since the commencement of the annual pilgrimage on June 21. About 60 pilgrims, including 11 women, have died of cardiac arrest or from accidents during the yatra. The "Charri Mubarak", the holy mace of Lord Shiva, would reach the

holy cave shrine tomorrow on "Shravan - Purnima" and will be brought back to Pahalgam on the same evening. About four lakh pilgrims from all over the country and abroad visited the holy Amarnath cave this year through Baltal and traditional Pahalgam routes. Thousands of people lined up everyday to have a darshan of the "ice lingam" of Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath.

Daily Exelsior, 19 August 2005

**Two civilians killed, HM militant nabbed**

JAMMU, Aug 18: Militants killed two civilians including a 75 year old man while police arrested a militant who was involved in at least four grenade explosions in Surankote tehsil in Poonch district while a Pakistani youth was arrested by Army in Poonch sector. A militant Mohd Azad son of Ismayil, a resident of Snehi, Surankote was arrested by police on a specific information that he was involved in a minimum of four grenade blasts in Surankote town and outskirts during past some months. He was working for Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. SSP Poonch S D Singh said Azad is being interrogated to ascertain identity of his associates to apprehend them. Azad has admitted his links with a 'commander' of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit, who used to give him grenades for throwing them on police and security forces installations. Azad was paid a handsome amount by the militants for executing the task. So far, Azad has admitted his involvement in four grenade explosions, police said, adding some more cases are likely to be worked out during his questioning.

Daily Times, 19 August 2005

**Kashmiri traders visiting Muzaffarabad next month (Iftikhar Gilani)**

NEW DELHI: A 55-member delegation of Kashmiri traders from Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to visit Muzaffarabad (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) on September 30 to explore trade links between both Kashmirs. Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Ram Sahai told reporters on Thursday that the delegation would consist of 35 prominent traders and businessmen from the Jammu region and 20 from Kashmir Valley. He said that during "our seven-day visit we will meet political leaders, traders and other people to discuss the need for opening trade links". Sahai said he would also ask Pakistani leaders to reopen the traditional routes from the Jammu region as well, especially the Suchetgarh-Sialkot Road, which is the shortest link between Jammu and Mirpur. He said the delegation had told Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about the need to open the Suchetgarh-Sialkot Road link. The Kashmir chief minister had also said at a rally in Jammu that opening of the Suchetgarh-Sialkot Road would promote trade besides allow the easy movement of people on both sides.

Greater Kashmir, 19 August 2005

**Cong, NC alliance on cards, Shaheen playing middleman (RIYAZ MASROOR)**

Srinagar, Aug 18: Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi's cryptic silence over the prospective power transition in November seems to have triggered restlessness within various power centers of the PDP-led multi-party coalition government. What makes her silence more eerie for stakeholders here is Omar Abdullah's reported access to Sonia's 10-Jan Path Mansion in New Delhi, through his promising friendship with Sonia's son, Rahul Gandhi. Pointers about newer permutations and combinations have started emanating from the local 'political laboratories' and certain actors are reportedly fiddling with the idea of National Conference and Congress forming a common front to ensure the "stable and tension-free dispensation". National Conference Chief and member Parliament Omar Abdullah's intermittent tête-à-têtes with Sonia's son and MP, Rahul Gandhi, while relaxing on the backbenches of Lok Sabha, during the on going monsoon session, had already set off speculations about Omar's 'backdoor offensive' against his adversary, PDP.

Greater Kashmir, 19 August 2005

**Man tipped army wrongly, Hawal tailor got nearly killed (M HYDERI)**

Srinagar, Aug 18: Zahoor Ahmad Qadri came limping into Greater Kashmir's office. His brother, Tariq, and sister supported him like crutches. He was shivering with fear, pain and anger. He said at the behest of one Manjit Singh, Special Operations Group of police arrested him on August 12 and handed him over to Rashtriya Rifles troops who 'tortured him in custody'. The man who traduced him had fed a lie to army that Zahoor was a militant planning to carry out bombings in the valley. When army realised they had caught a wrong man, Zahoor was released. "I nearly died of torture. Imagine if I had died what would have happened to my four small kids and wife," Zahoor, a tailor, struggling for living says. His question is a pointer toward the lawlessness where a person is arrested on a slander and nearly killed.

Dawn, 19 August 2005

**'Kashmiri leaders may meet Singh next month'**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Maulana Abbas Ansari said on

Thursday that a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Kashmiri leaders would take place in September." Invitation from India to the APHC leadership for dialogue is expected in the first week of September," he told a Pakistani TV channel. He expressed hope that talks with Indian leadership would be meaningful and would pave way for resolution of the Kashmir issue. Referring to a recent visit of the APHC leadership to Pakistan, Maulana Ansari said Pakistan accorded warm welcome to the Hurriyat delegation. He appreciated President General Pervez Musharraf for effectively highlighting the issue of Kashmir at international fora. He paid rich tributes to the Pakistani leadership who wanted to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people. He reiterated that no durable peace in the region could be achieved without settling the core issue of Kashmir.—APP

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

#### **1500 militants operating in J&K: Lt Gen Prasad**

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Hari Parsad has said that the security situation in the militancy-hit Jammu and Kashmir State was well under control but the infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) continued. He made these assertions while handing over the charge as Colonel Commandant of JAKLI Regiment to GOC 12 Corp, Lt Gen P R Gangadharan today. Sounding optimistic about the situation on the security front in the State, Lt Gen Parsad said, "The situation is well under control. As per the intelligence inputs about 1500 militants are still operating in the State."

The Indian Express, 20 August 2005

#### **I have J&K solution, but no one asked me: Karan**

Jammu, August 20: Member of Parliament and J&K's former Sadar-E-Riasat Karan Singh today claimed he has an acceptable solution to the Kashmir issue but said he was never consulted in resolving the matter. Favouring talks with all the sections and groups in Jammu and Kashmir, the scion of Dogra dynasty said on Kashmir "there is difference of opinion not only amongst the people of Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu, but also among the people in Gilgit and Baltistan. He said, "No formula could be worked out that would satisfy the aspirations of the people of Ladakh, Kashmir, Jammu and Gilgit-Baltistan" and emphasised that only a compromise of outlook can bring a resolution the issue. The Rajya Sabha MP said the Constitution of Jammu and Kasheir "affords enough flexibility to work out a methodology for an acceptable formulation on the issue".

The Indian Express, 20 August 2005

#### **Now, PoK refugees demand seats in Assembly**

Jammu, August 18: After the opening of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road, the refugees of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) are now seeking reservation in the State Assembly. The first major effort in this regard was made by SOS, an organisation which has taken up the cause of refugees of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). SOS members will be meeting Prime Minister Manohan Singh in Delhi on Wednesday. The organisation has, in the past as well, raised the demand for seats to PoK refugees in the J&K Assembly. The organisation is hopeful that its meeting with the Prime Minister will prove fruitful. The members are also planning to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the near future to put this demand before her. "We have a population of over six lakh across the country, but we do not have even one representative of our choice in the Assembly. We are demanding that a proportionate eight Assembly seats be filled out of the migrated PoK population," said Rajiv Chunnii, chairman of SOS.

The Indian Express, 20 August 2005

#### **Demand for trifurcation: JMM blames Kashmiri leadership**

Jammu, August 18: Jammu Mukti Morcha strongly reacted to the statement of Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed that 'we cannot go back to 1947 to further divide the state'. In a joint statement here today, president of Jammu Mukti Morcha Prof Virender Gupta, H.B.Khajuria, Vikram Gaur, Col V.P.Sharma, Pawan Kohli, Chander Uday Sharma and B.M.Kohli, blamed the Kashmiri leadership for the division of Jammu and Kashmir state in 1947 as well as for the recent demand for trifurcation of the state. "In 1947, on the advice Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, our advancing force were stopped and not allowed to vacate the whole of Jammu and Kashmir state, the statement said.

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

#### **Militant training camps' pics seized**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Indicating that Kashmiri militants have spread their network in western Uttar Pradesh, police have seized a film roll containing 36 photographs of suspected militants, their hide-outs and training camps being run in Pir Panjal range from a studio in Muzaffarnagar. Reports received here said Muzaffarnagar police have sealed the studio and was interrogating its owner and his associate after arresting them to ascertain if they had

any links with the militants. Uttar Pradesh police have sounded their Jammu counterparts on recovery of the photographs of the militants especially about the training camps and sought their support in investigations.

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

### **Separatists want UN probe**

LONDON, Aug 19: Separatist Kashmiri leaders have appealed to the UN Human Rights Sub Commission to investigate the dismal civil rights situation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and suggest concrete methods and measures to prevent abuse of rights of the common people in the area. The sub-commission should evolve a mechanism to examine prevailing human rights situation in Pakistan and parts of Jammu and Kashmir forcibly occupied by it. It should suggest measures to redress grievances of the victims of the human rights violations by the puppet regime of Pakistan, Sardar Shaukat Kashmiri, exiled Kashmir leader said at the 57th session of the UN Sub Commission on promotion and protection of human rights.

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

### **PM, Hurriyat meet likely in Sept**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 19: Accusing certain "elements" of attempting to sabotage the Indo-Pak dialogue process, moderate Hurriyat leader Maulana Abbas Ansari hoped that the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and leaders of his faction would take place in September. "Invitation from the Centre is expected in the first week of September to hold dialogue with All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership," Ansari, who is in Karachi, told GEO television. Without directly blaming the hardline Hurriyat faction led by Sayed Ali Geelani, he said "some elements" do not want to see the dialogue process between Pakistan and India progressing. He expressed hope that talks with the Indian leadership would be meaningful, paving the way for resolution of the Kashmir issue. (PTI)

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

### **EC extends deadline for J&K**

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: A Kashmiri Pandit organisation today said the Election Commission has agreed to extend the deadline for filing objections over the J and K voter list up to October 31. The EC's assurance to the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) came after its delegation met Election Commissioners Navin Chawla and R C Mishra and expressed concern over "massive deletion" of Kashmiri Pandit entries from the draft voter list in the State, an AIKS statement claimed here. The EC, the AIKS said, sought the Samaj's cooperation as a nodal agency for revision of electoral rolls for Kashmiri migrants living across the country.

Daily Excelsior, 20 August 2005

### **3 powerful IEDs seized**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Three Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were today defused by Army and police at three different places including the one planted under busy Devak bridge between Vijaypur and Samba on Jammu-Pathankote national highway. Traffic on Jammu-Pathankote national highway was stopped at 1 pm after a civilian noticed a suspicious looking object under Devak bridge near Vijaypur. Police immediately came into action and stopped vehicular movement on Devak bridge. A Bomb Disposal Squad was rushed to the spot. The object was blasted from a distance, police said, adding it couldn't be established whether the object carried explosive device or not.

Greater Kashmir, 21 August 2005

### **Hizb's Hindu commander among 6 killed in JK**

Srinagar, Aug 20: Four militants, including the Hindu area commander of largest Kashmiri militant organisation Hizbul Mujahideen, and two Village Defense Committee (VDC) members were killed in separate incidents across the State since Friday evening. Elsewhere, militants attacked the houses of former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and senior activist of ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). A Hindu militant of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) outfit was killed in an encounter with troops in Doda district of Jammu Friday night. Police said the area commander of HM, Uttam Singh alias Saifullah son of Sham Lal, was killed when he tried to enter into the house of a soldier named Muhammad Sharief Rather in Thaloran, in Gandoh. Uttam Singh was one of three suspected militants who raided the home of the soldier. Singh was killed during a two-hour gunbattle and the two others escaped into the forested area of Thaloran, police said.

Greater Kashmir, 21 August 2005

### **Noises on dialogue misleading world: APHC**

Srinagar, Aug 20: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani today said the Centre was making noises on dialogue process to mislead the international community about the situation prevailing in

Jammu and Kashmir. "The rulers of India are never serious about resolution of Kashmir issue. The offer of dialogue is only to mislead the outside world about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a spokesman of the Hurriyat said in a statement after the meeting of its advisory council here. "While the government of India wants to give the impression that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is improving, it has given a free hand to army and other forces to silence the voice of Kashmiri people," he said. The spokesman alleged that India and Pakistan were engaged in a reconciliation and dialogue process for the past one-and-a-half year but "human rights violations like custodial killing and rape were continuing in the state".

Greater Kashmir, 21 August 2005

#### **11 arrested**

Srinagar: Troops arrested eleven persons, including two militants in different raids across the Valley since Friday evening. A local news agency UNS said troops arrested Ghulam Nabi Tak who is father of a militant Mushtaq Ahmad Tak. Personnel of Special Operation Group (SOG) of police arrested Bashir Ahmad War son of Ghulam Ahmad and Muhammad Qasim Rather son of Muhammad Abdullah from Malshahipora in Beeru of Friday. SOG personnel arrested a militant of Hizbul Mujahideen Shamim Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Nabi from Dooru Islamabad Friday. Troops of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) arrested a militant of Harkat-e-Jehad Gowhar Ahmad Chowpan son of Muhammad Shaban at Pahlipora Kokernag Friday. Troops launched a cordon and search operation in Sonabari Pampore and arrested Nazir Ahmad Dar, Ghulam Qadir, Dar, Ghulam Rasool Dar and Rouf ul Islam. UNS said troops ransacked many houses and broke the household items during the operation.

GreaterKashmir, 21 August 2005

#### **Tarigami attacks PDP, army (SHABIR IBN YOUSUF)**

Kupwara: Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, state secretary of Communist party Friday launched a scathing attack on what he termed as inefficient governance of ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and expressed concern over the human rights abuses in the State by the Army. "PDP had failed to provide healing touch to the people and govern the state effectively," Tarigami said while addressing a rally at Dragmullah in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Castigating PDP led coalition government for failing to provide employment to the youth, Tarigami said, "Government has deliberately denied the youth their rights and forced them to take gun in their hands." "We will wait for the resolution of the Kashmir issue but the delay in providing employment to the youth cannot be tolerated anymore," Tarigami said. Appealing the leadership of India and Pakistan to include Kashmiris in the ongoing dialogue process, Tarigami asked the political parties to unite. "Let them include the people in the talks to pave way for resolving the long-standing Kashmir issue. And let us unite and impress upon India and Pakistan that we want peace to end the bloodshed in the State," Tarigami said.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

#### **J&K poised to be academic hub: Governor**

JAMMU, Aug 20: Governor Lt. Gen (Retd) S K Sinha today said that Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as academic hub with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) going whole hog in disseminating technical education for training professionals in various disciplines of modern learning. Presiding over a lecture delivered by eminent scholar and MP, Dr Karan Singh at SMVDU campus here this evening, the Governor said that within just one year of its inception, the varsity has started courses in five professional disciplines with scholars thronging from every corner of the country. He described the University as the flagship of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and said that it is all set to attain international status by adopting world quality standards. The Governor said that despite the University Act having been enacted in 1999, the pace of setting up of the institution was quite slow.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

#### **One dead, 2 hurt in Nowshera blast; 3 militants, VDC member among 5 killed in Doda**

JAMMU, Aug 20: Three militants including an 'area commander' of Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) and a 'section commander' of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit were gunned down and another ultra was captured by the Army in three separate encounters in Doda district today where two persons including a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member were killed by the militants. A youth was killed and two others were injured in a blast in Nowshera sector in Rajouri district this evening. Defence sources said Army launched a search operation in village Chacho in Kishtwar tehsil in Doda district at 4 pm today after developing an information that a HUJI 'commander' along with two associates had come down to the village from upper reaches to recruit some local youths in the militancy. Troops laid a cordon around the village. At 4.30 pm, the militants lobbed two grenades on the troops and made an attempt to escape from the village. Alert Army personnel immediately retaliated. An exchange of firing continued between the two sides for next one and a half hour.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

**Cong activist turns out to be top LeT operative (Sanjeev Pargal)**

JAMMU, Aug 20: A prominent Congress activist has gone under-ground after police registered a case against him following disclosures by four recently arrested militants that he was operating as an 'area commander' of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit in Doda district. The Congress leader's brother and another influential person have been arrested by the police. They were also working for the LeT outfit and were involved in the militant activities in Doda district. Top police sources told the Excelsior today that senior Congress activist Abdullah Bandey, who holds the post of an office bearer of the party, went into hiding soon after police arrested four LeT militants including three from Doda and one from Mendhar.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

**Two politicians' houses attacked**

SRINAGAR, Aug 20 : A hardcore militant of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit and two other militants were killed in separate encounters in Kashmir valley, where houses of two politicians were attacked by militants during the past 24 hours. Acting on a specific information, troops of Rashtriya Rifles laid a cordon around Kullernar in Pahalgam area to flush out hiding militants early today, informed sources said. As the search operation was in progress, militants opened fire on the troops and in the ensuing gunbattle a Jaish-e-Mohammad militant, identified as Farooq Ahmad Khan alias Shebaaz Khan was killed, the sources said. Khan was a resident of Poshnari Tral.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

**CM to inspect Baglihar work on Sept 2 (Mohinder Verma)**

JAMMU, Aug 20: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed will discuss the crisis in timely completion of the 450 MW Baglihar Hydel Power Project due to blockade of both the diversion tunnels during Board of Directors meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (PDC), likely to be held on September two. Authoritative sources told the EXCELSIOR that Board of Directors of J&K Power Development Corporation is likely to meet on September two under the chairmanship of Chief Minister and Baglihar Hydel Power Project issue would be on top of the agenda as the project is all set to be delayed by about six months due to blockade of both the diversion tunnels following landslides. The meeting which will be attended by Power Minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz, Commissioner Secretary Basharat Ahmed, Managing Director Power Development Corporation, Muzaffar Dar and Engineers of the Department, would discuss the situation erupted due to stoppage of civil work on the dam and steps being initiated by the PDC, JP Industries and other agencies for timely completion of the project.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

**Geelani rejects PM's invitation**

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Virtually rejecting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's independence day invitation for talks, hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference, led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, today said the Centre was "making noises" on dialogue process "to mislead" the international community about the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. "The rulers of India are never serious about resolution of Kashmir issue. The offer of dialogue is only to mislead the outside world about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a spokesman of the amalgam said in a statement after the meeting of its advisory council here.

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2005

**Peace process no solution: KPs**

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: Kashmiri-Pandits today rejected the India-Pakistan peace process as a solution to Kashmir problem and said an "internal area of tolerance" in the form of a separate homeland for them would be an ideal alternative. A round-table of the leaders of prominent Kashmiri Pandit organisations, including 'Panun Kashmir' and the Delhi-based Kashmiri Samiti decried the Centre's attempts to ignore 700,000 Kashmiri Pandits living in various parts of the country. More than 370,000 Kashmiri Pandits migrated from the Valley in 1989-90 after the start of militancy and have been living in various parts of the country since then. The Panun Kashmir (PK) said a separate homeland should be carved out of the State on the North-East of River Jhelum for the 700,000 Pandits. The homeland should have a Union Territory status and be a secular, democratic dispensation under the Indian constitution.

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2005

**Time not ripe for ceasefire: Lt Gen Prasad**

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Asserting that normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir was "round the corner", outgoing General

Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of Northern Command Lt Gen Hari Prasad on Sunday said declaring cease fire was a political decision and according to him time and situation were not ripe to declare break in fighting militancy, unilaterally. Sounding optimistic about the overall situation in J&K, Lieutenant General, who is set to retire on August 31, however, said that situation had not reached a stage where Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force or Jammu and Kashmir Police could replace the Army. Pertinent to recall here that Member Parliament and the re-elected president of the ruling People's Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti recently wished that all the security responsibilities be handed over to the State Police. Addressing a press conference at Badami Bagh Army Cantonment here today, Lt. Gen. Prasad said, "though the normalcy is round the corner, however, today, in my view, the situation has not reached a point where Army could be replaced by BSF, CRPF or the state Police."

The Indian Express, 22 August 2005

#### **Top commanders of HM, Al-Badr among 7 militants killed**

Srinagar, August 21: In the surging violence in the Valley, seven militants were killed since last night. The slain militants included two top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen and Al-Badr Mujahideen. Police said that two militants, including a top commander of Pakistan-based Al-Badr Mujahideen militant outfit were killed in an encounter with the army at Kangan in Srinagar district. The army, on a specific tip-off about the presence of militants laid a siege around the forest area at Hayan in Kangan, said police sources. As the army started combing operations to flush out the militants, they came under heavy fire. The army returned the fire and in the ensuing encounter, two militants were killed. The slain militants have been identified by police as Khalid Afghani and Imran, both residents of Pakistan. The army said that the operation in the area continues.

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2005

#### **8 militants killed in Valley**

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 : Eight militants, four of them Pakistanis, were killed across Kashmir where a fierce encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Pulwama district today. The firefight broke out when ultras hiding in a house at Ashmander village opened fire on the security search party this afternoon, a police spokesman said. Security forces, acting on a tip off that militants were hiding there, cordoned the village, 40 kms from here. Militants hiding in the house of one Farooq Ahmad Dar fired on the search party. The fire was returned and the encounter was on when reports last came in, the spokesman said.

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2005

#### **Manmohan-Musharraf meet next month**

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will seek a firm assurance from Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on an end to Islamabad's support to cross-border terrorism when they meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in mid- September. Dr Singh will also look for steps to further liberalise trade between the two countries, sources in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. "We are looking for two things: A very convincing demonstration of an end to Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and more steps to liberalise trade between India and Pakistan. These are two major areas of concern for us," they said. The two leaders, who are meeting after a gap of four months, will basically review the progress made in the Composite Dialogue Process launched by the two countries in January, 2004.

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2005

#### **Support peace process: Sajjad (Sarwar Kashani)**

CHARAR-E-SHAREEF (Budgam), Aug 21: Observing that the people of Kashmir had grown mature enough to elect their leaders, Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference chairman, Sajjad Ghani Lone on Sunday, said that time had gone when leadership, from India or Pakistan, would be imposed upon the people. He also asked the people to extend their support to peace and snubbed those leaders playing with sentiments of the people. Addressing a gathering in a remote hamlet, Bazgonla in Charar-e-Shareef in Budgam district, he said that people of Jammu and Kashmir had developed enough wisdom to differentiate between guardians of their faith and detractors. "With people participating in political rallies, the reality of the situation has become lucid to them and they can differentiate between right and wrong," Sajjad said while addressing the rally.

Greater Kashmir, 22 August 2005

#### **Govt doesn't implement our recommendations: SHRC**

Srinagar Aug 21: The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) says it can't do anything if government doesn't work upon its recommendations. The commission has ample reasons to say so. Of the 3127 cases of rights abuses it received since 1998 when it was set up, a very few have been honoured. Interestingly, during the Mufti led coalition, no recommendation of the commission has been implemented, SHRC says. With complaints of

harassment, killings, rapes and custodial disappearance pouring in from across the State, SHRC that claims to be an autonomous body for the protection of human rights has been rendered as a body whose only work is to issue recommendations. During the three year rule of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, SHRC received 1551 complaints of human rights abuses, which are the highest since its inception.

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2005

#### **Jaish not Lashkar behind Ayodhya attack**

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: It was Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and not Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) behind the July five attack on the Ram Janambhoomi temple complex in Ayodhya as was suspected earlier, informed sources said. During a detailed interrogation by central security agencies of the five persons arrested, it was found that it was JeM and not LeT behind the failed attack on the makeshift temple, the sources said. Though UP and Jammu and Kashmir Police were trying hard to piece together their stories of Lashkar being involved in the attack, several leads clearly indicated involvement of JeM in the attack which includes evidences gathered by central agencies that Mohammed Kari, the absconding mastermind, was the local commander of JeM and not Lashker. During investigation, it was found that one of the five militants killed during the attack on July five had visited Deoband and had stayed there.

The Indian Express, 22 August 2005

#### **Militancy-hit truckers demand package**

Jammu, August 21: The private truck owners in the state, who have suffered due to militancy, should be given a package of Rs 50,000 each. While the Central Government has given a Rs 9-crore package to the JKSRTC against the militancy affected period, the private truck owners have totally been neglected. This was stated by Rajinder Singh, president of All J&K Truck Owners Union, while addressing media persons here today. He said that during militancy, besides the JKSRTC, the private truck owners too have suffered a lot. He said that while the Central Government provided package to the JKSRTC, the private truck owners had been totally neglected. He demanded for reduction in the token tax. As the rate of diesel has already been increased by the Central Government, the fares have not been increased simultaneously. He said that reduction in the token tax could provide relief to the truck owners.

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2005

#### **Nishat car bomb accused among four killed**

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 : Three militants of Pakistan based Jaish-e- Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen, including a self-styled commander, allegedly involved in Nishat car bomb blast were among four people killed in Kashmir overnight, official sources said today. Meanwhile, late this evening militants attacked a Police Patrol Party near Police Station Sopore, injuring four cops and a civilian. Security forces also averted two major blasts and busted a JeM hideout while two ultras surrendered in the Kashmir valley overnight. Security forces, on a tip off, cordoned a village at Pulwama in south Kashmir district of Anantnag late last night. As the troops were sealing the village, militants attacked them with hand grenades and automatic weapons. Troops retaliated and in the fierce gunbattle, two militants, including a commander, were killed. Two AK rifles and other arms and ammunition were recovered from the militants of JeM, they said.

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2005

#### **Omar hints at major political change in J&K in November**

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: National Conference (NC) chief Omar Abdullah today asserted that the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir will witness a significant change in November this year, when the transfer of power from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the Congress is scheduled to take place in the State. "Jammu and Kashmir will witness a major political change in November this year. Those who have misled the people of the State with their false promises and tall claims will soon be exposed," Mr Abdullah told a public meeting here. His statement comes amid media reports of a possible tie-up between the Congress and the main opposition NC ahead of the transition of power in Jammu and Kashmir in November this year. The reports also suggested that the NC president had a series of meetings with young MP and Congress president Sonia Gandhi's son Rahul Gandhi in the recent past. The two were regularly seen chatting together in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon session.

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2005

#### **Qazigund-Baramulla train faces barricades (Sarwar Kashani)**

Srinagar, Aug 22: Notwithstanding the recent claims of Chief Administration Officer IRCON, Rakesh Chopra that 'Qazigund-Baramulla rail will ply in December 2006', the completion of dream project seems to be a distant dream, given the 'impediments' the project is facing drastically. And Deputy Chief Engineer Northern Railways in

Udhampur acknowledged this fact saying that plying of train even on Qazigund-Baramulla track was quite unlikely in light of the some of the impediments the project is facing on Budgam-Baramulla track. Reliable sources told the EXCELSIOR that the project is facing grave flaws and every subleased project of the whole plan is facing delay because of wrong estimation, which consequently led to the re-tendering of some of the leased projects. And to add to it, another impedance is land disputes at certain places, which sources said, were not being settled. Courtesy! State Revenue department's callous attitude. Sources said that even IRCON, the prime contracting and executing agency of the project too wasn't endeavoring in stamping out the obstacles, the project is confronted with.

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2005

**Top hawala operator nabbed in Jammu** (Sanjeev Pargal)

JAMMU, Aug 22: Cracking another hawala racket, Jammu Police today arrested a top hawala operator from Railway Station and recovered Rs 2.60 lakh worth foreign currency from his possession. Police parties in Srinagar and New Delhi have been alerted to apprehend four hawala operators whose names have surfaced during interrogation of the arrested person. The network was connected to Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. On a very specific information, police intercepted a Maruti Zen car No.8874 8DLCC at Railway Station this morning and arrested a top hawala operator Ali Mohd Wani, a resident of village Akingam in Anantnag district, presently putting up in Bantalab, Jammu. The Maruti Zen car was subjected to thorough frisking and later seized by the police. From inside the car, police recovered Rs 2.60 lakh worth foreign currency.

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2005

**Mirwaiz invited for OIC meet**

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has invited chairman of moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umer Farooq to attend the upcoming session of the grouping in New York in September. Mirwaiz has been invited by OIC secretary general Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu to the ministerial meeting of the OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir as well as the annual coordination meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the grouping to be held on September 19 and September 23 during the UN General Assembly session, a Hurriyat spokesman said today. Mirwaiz is the third separatist leader to be invited for this year's meeting of Foreign Ministers. Democratic Freedom party president Shabir Ahmad Shah and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chairman Mohammad Yaseen Malik have also been invited to the meeting (PTI)

The Indian Express, 23 August 2005

**Jaish commander killed, 20 kg of IED defused**

Srinagar, August 22: A top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad is among the four persons killed in the Valley since Sunday evening. Meanwhile, security forces averted a major tragedy by defusing a 20-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED). In a fierce encounter with a joint party of the Army and the Border Security Force (BSF), two militants, including a commander, were killed at Ashmander village in the south Kashmir district of Pulwama. Police sources said a joint party of 53 Rashtriya Rifles and BSF personnel of 42 Battalion, on a tip-off, laid a siege around a house in Pulwama yesterday. As the soldiers were looking for the hiding militants, they came under fire. The Army and BSF returned the fire and in the ensuing encounter that ended today, two militants were killed. The police have identified the slain militants as Ghulam Mohammad Rather and Faizan Ahmad. Rather, alias Javid, police said, was the district commander of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad militant outfit.

Greater Kashmir, 24 August 2005

**Kashmir can't be ignored for long: Musharraf**

GK MONITORING DESK

Islamabad, Aug 23: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf Tuesday said Kashmir was a burning issue which could not be put on the backburner any longer, agency reports said. "I'm optimistic Islamabad and New Delhi will sort out the longstanding conflict through the ongoing peace process," the president said while addressing the executives of the Association of Asian Parliament for Peace at Army House in Rawalpindi. Musharraf said Pakistan was for peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and had no aggressive designs against any state. "We're doing our best to remove irritants hindering South Asian peace," he added. "We're pursuing the peace process with India very sincerely and pin high hopes on it. We expect this will help us resolve all conflicts, especially Kashmir," he maintained. According to the president, groupings like SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), and the Shanghai Forum should be reinforced so they could contribute to resolving regional disputes. He also said Asian countries would have to act together to fight terrorism, poverty, backwardness.

Greater Kashmir, 24 August 2005

## **Mufti urges PM to initiate dialogue**

GK NEWS SERVICE

Khansaheb, Aug 23: Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed today appealed Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to take forward the dialogue process in the state and initiate talks with various sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir. He said dialogue with every shade of opinion including the elected representatives of the people is the only way ahead to resolve issues. The Chief Minister was addressing a large public meeting here where he announced tehsil status for Khansaheb this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Minister for Revenue, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, Minister for Rural Development, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Minister of State for Hajj and Auqaf, Muhammad Sarfaraz Khan and MLC, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjoora. The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is willing for unconditional talks with the people of the state. He said these talks are likely to start next month. He said a good beginning was made when former Prime Minister while responding to the urges and aspirations of Kashmiri people extended a hand to friendship to Pakistan from Srinagar.

The Indian Express, 24 August 2005

## **BJP regrets Valley-based leaders bias against Jammu**

Jammu, August 23: STATE BJP vice president and spokesman Prof Hari Om today said that his party had not taken kindly to the opposition of the Valley-based Congress and PDP leaders to the idea of a Jammu-based politician becoming J&K Chief Minister on Nov 2 when Mufti Mohammad Sayeed completes his three year in office. He said the BJP had also taken an exception to the view of a senior PDP leader that the implementation of the 'Proposals of the Wazir Commission, which calls for the creation of three more districts Reasi, Samba and Kishtwar in Jammu region, would harm the interest of the Valley'. Prof Hari Om said the feeling among the Valley-based PDP and Congress leaders that 'replacing a Valley-based Chief Minister with Jammu-based one would not go down well with the common people in Kashmir' is nothing but a manifestation of their bias against the people of Jammu region and added that such an approach on the part of these leaders would only hasten the process of the state's disintegration.

Greater Kashmir, 24 August 2005

## **APHC protests rights abuses**

Srinagar: The activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq held huge demonstrations against the "growing human rights abuses and mistreatment of detainees languishing in different jails" at Lal Chowk here on Tuesday. The protestors raised slogans demanding release of detainees and a complete halt to the human rights violations in the State. The demonstrators were stopped by police by force. The police also detained some of the Hurriyat activists including Shahid-ul-Islam and Javed Ahmad Mir.

Greater Kashmir, 24 August 2005

## **Encounter in Kangan**

Srinagar: An encounter took place between troops of 24 RR and militants at Akhal Kangan on Monday night. However according to KNS none was wounded in the incident. Quoting defence PRO Lt Colonel Batra, KNS said the troops raided a militant hideout at Kalhan Behak Kupwara on Monday and detained Jaffar Hussain Mir son of Ghulam Muhammad, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani son of Abdullah Wani, Abdul Qayoom Khan son of Dilbar Khan, Ghulam Nabi son of Jamal-uid-Din and Qatim-ud-Din of Bataopra Kupwara. Unidentified persons torched four residential houses, which according to police belonged to migrant Pandits, at Mattan Bazaar Islamabad on Monday night. Parveen Fatima (14) daughter of M Hussain Shah of Gursai Sector Harni was abducted by unidentified persons from the same village in Poonch on August 22.

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2005

## **Jammuites be taken into confidence for talks on J&K: Vohra (Nishikant Khajuria)**

JAMMU, Aug 23: N N Vohra, Centre's interlocutor on Kashmir, has assured that people of all three regions of the State would be taken into confidence while holding dialogue to resolve the vexed issue of Jammu and Kashmir. In his more than two-hour long interaction with Jammu intelligentsia at Jammu University here today, Mr Vohra sought to do away the perception that New Delhi was confining the ongoing dialogue process to Kashmir only ignoring the people of Jammu as well as Ladakh. "Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has made it very clear that the ongoing dialogue and peace process is not confined to Kashmir only but the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir," he emphasized. The interaction was organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, JU, in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Studies. Topic of the talk was 'Peace Process the Way Ahead'.

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2005

## **OIC drops Geelani from guest list**

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has once again ignored breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani and not invited him to a meeting of its Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to be held in New York on September 19. Sources close to Mr Geelani said that the OIC, at the behest of Pakistan, had permanently dropped the hardline leader's name from its guest list. They said it was quite apparent that the OIC's decision had been influenced by Pakistan. Islamabad is reportedly unhappy with Mr Geelani for his decision not to visit Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) along with other separatist leaders in the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus on June two this year.

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2005

#### **5 top militants held in Valley**

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: Troops today arrested five heavily armed militants, including a self styled district commander in the frontier district of Kupwara, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. He said troops arrested the militants, including the commander identified as Zahir Husain Mir, during a search operation. The arms and ammunition seized from the militants included five AK rifles, 15 magazines, 198 rounds of ammunition, five pouches, one wireless set and six grenades. The spokesman said that security force and police in a joint operation recovered three AK rifles, four magazines, 1400 rounds of ammunition, three kg deadly RDX, two solar rockets, two missiles, five remote control devices, three pistols with 6 magazines, 8 RPG grenades, one UBGL with three rounds at Hafrada forest in Kupwara. However, no one was arrested.

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2005

#### **Infiltration on rise, camps intact: Pranab**

NEW DELHI, Aug 24: Cross-border infiltration in Kashmir is once again on the increase with logistic infrastructure of terrorist training camps inside Pakistan and in Pak-occupied Kashmir remaining intact, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee informed the Rajya Sabha today. Though there was a reduction in the number of infiltration attempts from across the border in the initial five months of the current year, such incidents showed an increase during June and July— and this fact has been repeatedly conveyed by the Army to the Pakistan Director General of Military Operations, the Minister said during Question Hour. Pakistan continues to deny involvement of its troops in abetting infiltration, the Minister added.

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2005

#### **HM commander killed in Pulwama**

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Station House Officer (SHO) of Nigeen police station in Srinagar had a close shave with death, today, when militants attacked a police patrol party with grenades injuring him, two CRPF personnel and four beacon laborers. In the meantime, in an encounter at Pulwama, a top Hizb commander was killed while as a trooper and a civilian also received injuries. According to details, as furnished by sources, militants, Wednesday at around 1015 hours, hurled a grenade at a police patrol party led by Inspector Sajad Ahmed Parray, SHO Nigeen near Ashai Bagh Bridge on Rainawari Hazratbal road. Sources said that the attack was targeted at Sajad.

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2005

#### **Kashmir to be central point in talks: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: Asserting that there was no infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir from the Pakistani side, President Pervez Musharraf has said he would take up the Indian charge in this regard with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during their meeting in New York next month where Kashmir would be the "central point" of talks. "There is no infiltration whatsoever taking place. I will be raising the issue of alleged cross-border infiltration with the Indian Prime Minister," he said. In his Independence Day speech, Singh had said that "half-hearted" efforts by Pakistan to check terrorist activities will not suffice and it has to "totally dismantle" the terror infrastructure.

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2005

#### **Drop gun, join talks; Baig to militants**

BARAMULLA, Aug 24: Minister for Finance and Planning, Muzaffar Hussain Baig today asked militants to drop the gun and join negotiations to facilitate peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue for which the scenario is most appropriate now. Addressing a large public meeting in the remote hilly village of Shalkote in Rafiabad constituency, he said people of the State want to live in peace and the militants must show respect for people's desire and help towards consolidation of peace efforts. He said the Government is willing to listen to the grievances of the local militants if they shun the path of violence. At the same time, he said the foreign militants must go back to their native places putting an end to senseless bloodletting in the State. He added that by resorting to violent acts, the militants are not only bringing miseries to their own families but are also adding to the miseries of the hapless Kashmiris.

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2005

**CPM not happy with Mufti Govt: Karat**

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: The CPI(M) today expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed-led coalition Government in Jammu and Kashmir during its nearly three-year tenure. "We are not happy with the performance of the PDP-Congress coalition Government in Jammu and Kashmir during its nearly three-year-tenure," CPI(M) General Secretary Prakash Karat told a news conference here. He said there are various reasons for being dissatisfied with the Jammu and Kashmir Government. "One of them is unemployment problem. The coalition Government had promised a job to every household in the State, but even that promise has not been fulfilled," he added. Mr Karat said various commitments made in the Common Minimum.

Greater Kashmir, 25 August 2005

**Government gunmen abduct 5 in Handwara (SHABIR IBN YOUSUF)**

Handwara, Aug 24: The abduction of five persons, including a government employee by the government gunmen working with the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) triggered massive demonstration at Chogul Handwara Wednesday. Police has registered a case and started investigation. The residents blocked the Handwara road and shouted slogans against the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for what they said giving license to government gunmen to harass and kill the people. The government gunmen abducted Muhammad Sadiq Lone an employee of Roads and Buildings, and four Bihari labourers identified as Suhail, Aslam, Naseem and Amin from a house here from Chogul and Handwara on Monday night.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

**Two KZF militants held in Jammu with RDX**

JAMMU, Aug 25: Close on the heels of smashing a hawala network, linked with Hizbul Mujahideen outfit, police late last night arrested two militants of 'Khalistan Zindabad Force' (KZF) during a naka laid at Satwari and later recovered from them a consignment of arms and ammunition including six kg RDX. SSP Jammu Mukesh Singh said a police party had laid a trap for two militants of 'KZF' following confirmed reports that they were planning to revive activities of the outfit in Jammu district. There were also reports that they were in possession of a consignment of arms and explosives, smuggled from across the border. The militants were trapped by the police officials, who posed themselves as a militant commander. With the help of a telephone number, they were made to appear at Satwari "to meet their commander to get fresh instructions". Police said both of them were arrested as soon as they appeared at Satwari late last night. They were identified as Rajinder Singh son of Hajara Singh and Tajinder Singh son of Gurcharan Singh, both residents of Chatta Farm.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

**Patwari, son shot dead in Rajouri; one injured**

JAMMU, Aug 25: A Patwari and his son were shot dead and another family member was seriously injured in an attack by the militants tonight at village Thanna Mang in Darhal area of Rajouri district. Official reports said three militants came to the house of Nissar Patwari at Thanna Mang at 9.20 pm today and started dragging out Patwari and his two sons. The family members resisted the militants' attempt. A scuffle continued for few minutes after which another militant, standing at a distance, blew a whistle asking the militants to open firing. Nissar Patwari and Shan Mohd were killed on spot while Mohd Amin was seriously injured. The injured was shifted to the district hospital, Rajouri late tonight in critical condition.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

**Army awaits Centre's nod on Poonch-Rawalakote road (Gopal Sharma)**

JAMMU, Aug 25: While 16 Corp of the Indian Army awaits Centre's nod to initiate construction work on proposed Poonch-Rawalakot road for the last four months, the issue of reopening this road link for meeting the divided families on either side of the Line of Control has apparently been kept in the cold storage. A team of experts from various Ministries, including top engineers and Minister incharge R&B, G A Mir had visited the site in Poonch on April 26-27 this year but even after the lapse of nearly four months, no development has been witnessed towards the resumption of repair work on the road. Even the Centre has yet to give its green signal and sanction funds for the construction of this road and a bridge connecting Poonch with a town (Rawalakot) in Pak occupied Kashmir. The sources indicated that Government was going slow and monitoring situation closely in view of increase in the terrorist incidents in the State in last two to three months.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

**75 pc polling in Zanskar**

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: More than 75 per cent voters today exercised their franchise in the by-elections to the Zanskar Assembly constituency in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said. The polling, which began at 0700

hrs, was very low early morning and started picking up after 1200 hrs. The incident-free voting ended at 1600 hrs. Reports said a good voter turn-out was recorded in hilly and inaccessible areas. Both men and women came out in large numbers to cast their votes. About 70 polling stations had been set up in the constituency which has 21,992 voters, including 11,603 female electors.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

#### **4 militants killed in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Aug 25: Four militants, including two foreign mercenaries, were killed in separate encounters at Kulgam Anantnag and Kelar Pulwama, on Thursday. According to details, troopers of 9 RR, this morning, cordoned off the area in village Tangmarg Damhal Hanjipora in Kulgam Anantnag. Sources said that the militants hiding, on seeing the forces sealing the area, opened fire on them ensuing into a fierce gun battle. One militant, a foreign mercenary, belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen, was killed in this encounter. The slain militant was identified as Iqbal Gul alias Salahuddin Ayoubi alias Bihari, son of Assadullah of Punjab Pakistan. Sources said that one of his accomplices managed to break the cordon and ran away. However, the sources said, he too was later gunned down at Lassarpora Kulgam. His identification was revealed to be Shabeer Ahmed Ghanai alias Dawood, son of Bashir Ahmed, of Kulgam.

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2005

#### **CWC geologists arriving tomorrow**

JAMMU, Aug 25: With agencies engaged in the construction of 450 MW Baglihar Hydel Power Project having failed to reach a consensus on dealing with the crisis erupted due to blockade of both the diversion tunnels, two senior geologists from the Central Water Commission (CWC) are arriving on August 27 to suggest the way out. Highly placed sources told the EXCELSIOR that a meeting between officers of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC), Jai Prakash Industries Limited and Lahmeyer International GMGH Germany, which is providing consultancy was held this evening wherein they deliberated upon the options left with them to immediately start the work on the project. Though the officers were unanimous on constructing third diversion tunnel to siphon out the accumulated water yet they could not reach on consensus as to on which side the new diversion tunnel is to be constructed, the sources said and added that most of the officers were in favour of constructing third diversion tunnel on left side of the dam, as on right side there already existed several holes.

The Indian Express, 26 August 2005

#### **Cong looks at last chance to redeem itself in J&K**

Srinagar, August 25: With the change of baton in Jammu and Kashmir from alliance partners People's Democratic Party (PDP) to Congress proposed for November, Congress feels it is the last chance to redeem itself as a premier political force in the state. "Congress should take over the Chief Ministership from PDP as per the agreement between the coalition partners reached in the wake of 2002 Assembly polls as it will help the party in rejuvenating itself as a premier political force in the state," senior vice president of Pradesh Congress Committee Abdul Gani Vakil told PTI here. He said Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has made it abundantly clear at various public functions that his PDP would relinquish the post as per the agreement between the coalition partners. "Congress cannot afford to let go the chance as it would lose its balancing character. It will be a disaster for the party. While separatists would be strengthened in the Valley, the communal forces will get an issue to implement their agenda in Jammu region," Vakil said.

The Indian Express, 26 August 2005

#### **Pakistan links trade with Kashmir resolution**

Islamabad, August 25: Pakistan will not allow Indian investments on its soil without the resolution of Kashmir and other contentious issues, a senior Pakistani official said. Indian companies Bajaj Auto, Bharat Hotels and Tata Steel had visited Pakistan recently to explore business avenues but were politely told that investments from India were welcome only after progress on the political front, Chairman of Board of Investment Waseem Haqqi said. "The Indian businessmen came around to explore investment opportunities in fields of hospitality, telecommunications and steel but were told that unless there is simultaneous progress on the political front and on resolution of all outstanding issues including Kashmir, Pakistan cannot open its doors to Indian investment," he told Daily Times.

Daily excelsior, 27 August 2005

#### **SVO raids Excise Commissioner office in Srinagar (Sarwar Kashani)**

Srinagar, Aug 26: Acting on the complaints about liquor licenses being sold in black in the Excise Commissioner office, the State Vigilance Organisation on Friday raided the office in Srinagar and seized some documents, which the sources said were being scrutinized. According to sources, the State Vigilance Organisation had received

some complaints that the liquor licenses were being sold in black at the Excise Commissioner office in Srinagar. A junior assistant in the said office was the main kingpin behind the illegal business. Sources said that Raj Kumar of Satwari Jammu, Junior Assistant, had issued (read sold) liquor licenses, against hefty sums, to around 90 liquor vendors across the State, including tourist spots in Gulmarg and Pahalgam. They added that the said Junior Assistant operated in an organized network and had some agents in the market, who would broker deals worth lakhs for him.

Daily excelsior, 27 August 2005

#### **Six serial blasts rock Sopore; 18 injured**

Srinagar, Aug 26: At least 18 persons, including four BSF personnel and 14 civilians were injured in six grenade blasts at different places in Sopore today. Elsewhere, in Valley, militants shot dead a Territorial Army man at Sumbal Sonawari and a Namberdar (village head) in Kralapora Budgam. According to sources, Sopore town was rocked by a series of six blasts in a span of three hours, injuring at least 18 persons, some of them critically. Sources said, at around 1430 hours Friday, militants hurled two grenades, one after the other, towards a water tanker of 122 Battalion BSF at Lalbaab Sahib Sopore. The grenades exploded with a bang injuring four persons, including a 5-year-old girl besides damaging the water tanker and a pick up truck JKD 9127, parked nearby. Sources identified the injured as: Sakina, a 5 year-old girl, Abdul Gaffar Gilkar, Mubashir Teli and Asiya of Lalbaab Sahib Sopore.

Daily excelsior, 27 August 2005

#### **Bihari youth held on border, Two civilians killed by militants, 2 freed**

JAMMU, Aug 26: Militants kidnapped three civilians and gunned down one of them while freeing two others at Thalani Dhar in Gandoh area of Doda district while another civilian was killed in Gool area of Ramban police district today. In another incident, Harni police in Mendhar tehsil arrested a police constable and his father for allegedly killing his wife and burying her body without post-mortem. Official sources said a group of militants kidnapped three civilians from Thalani Dhar in Doda's Gandoh area where they had gone for grazing cattle yesterday evening. The hostages were identified as Mohd Abbas son of Mohd Sharief, Irshad Hussain son of Mohd Sharief and Roshan Lal son of Ishar Lal, all residents of Gandoh. Late in the evening, the militants released Mohd Abbas and Irshad Hussain unharmed and beheaded Roshan Lal.

Daily excelsior, 27 August 2005

#### **CBMs aimed at resolving Kashmir issue: India**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 26: Dispelling impression that the Kashmir issue was being ignored, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran has said the Confidence Building Measures undertaken by India and Pakistan were aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere to resolve the problem. Saran, who would arrive here on August 31 to hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Muhammad Khan on September one to review the progress on the second round of composite dialogue, said the dialogue process proceeded satisfactorily. There was an impression that the Kashmir issue was getting ignored by the Confidence Building Measures which were in fact aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere in both the countries to resolve the problem peacefully, Saran told Pakistani daily 'Jung' in an interview. With the narrowing down of differences, there would be better understanding between the people of the two countries to resolve the Kashmir issue, he said.

Greater Kashmir, 27 August 2005

#### **Ban on speeches in Waqf mosques**

Srinagar, Aug 26: Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today lashed out at coalition government for banning political speeches in shrines and mosques under the Waqf Board. "The puppet government has no power to stop pro-freedom and pro-Islam leadership to address people in shrines and mosques," Geelani, chairman of a faction of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), said during a Friday address here. Geelani accused Mufti Muhammad Sayeed led government of promoting and encouraging alien culture in Jammu and Kashmir and said the cultural aggression would be countered. "We are not separatists. We are freedom lovers. How come we are separatists when we have never accepted the Indian occupation in Jammu and Kashmir," Geelani said. Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, heading another faction of Hurriyat Conference today strongly reacted to the ban.

Greater Kashmir, 27 August 2005

#### **Indians have double standards: Malik (ZULFIKAR MAJID)**

Bandipora, Aug 26: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Muhammad Yaseen Malik Friday said 'Indian people are showing double standards' on death sentence of Sarabjeet Singh and Afzal Guru. Malik was addressing an impressive gathering of people at Bandipora in Varmul district. Referring to death sentence

awarded to Sarbjeet Singh, an Indian national by Supreme Court of Pakistan on charges of indulging in terrorist activities, Malik said, "When people of India have raised hue and cry on this issue, why they haven't raised the issue of Afzal Guru who has been awarded death sentence by Supreme Court of India." We aren't in favor of death sentence to Sarbjeet but Afzal too should be acquitted," JKLF Chairman said.

Greater Kashmir, 27 August 2005

### **Army truck crushes civilian, violent protests rock Kralpora (SHABIR IBN YOUSUF)**

Kralpora, Aug 26: Many thousand people clashed with police in Reshigund here after an army vehicle crushed to death a civilian Friday afternoon. A civilian protester, Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI), a head constable and a special police officer were wounded in the clashes. The protesters set ablaze two army trucks and also damaged a fire tender that came to douse the fire in the trucks. The dead civilian is Ali Muhammad Lone son of Ghulam Ahmad Lone. Wounded civilian is Ghulam Qadir of Punnah, ASI Satish Kumar, SPO Mushtaq Ahmad, and head constable Hilal Ahmad. Eyewitnesses said that one of the vehicles of an army convoy that was passing through Kralpora Chowk crushed to death Ali Muhammad Lone. The driver of the vehicle ran away from the spot without caring for the bleeding civilian.

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2005

### **600 kg explosives recovered**

#### **Minister survives militant attack**

SRINAGAR, Aug 27 : Forest Minister Sofi Ghulam Mohiuddin today escaped unhurt when militants fired at his motorcade in Handwara area in Kupwara district. Mohiuddin was returning to Handwara, his constituency, from Wudderbala village when the ultras struck. Elsewhere in Kashmir valley, two Lashker-e-Toiba militants were killed, while security forces recovered more than 600 kgs of explosives in Kashmir since last night, a police spokesman said today. Informed sources said that the militants attacked the Minister's motorcade at Laribal forcing his security personnel to fire back. The exchange of fire lasted a few minutes, the sources said adding there were no casualties. Undeterred by the attack, the Minister, who was on a tour of the area to acquaint himself about problems of the people, continued with his programme.

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2005

### **15 kg RDX seized in Rajouri**

#### **Two IEDs destroyed, ultra surrenders**

JAMMU, Aug 27: Army last night defused two powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under a culvert on Krishna Ghati-Mendhar road in Poonch district while a militant of Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) outfit surrendered before Army and police in Ramban tehsil today. Manjakote police in Rajouri district recovered 15 kg RDX and averted a major catastrophe. Police said a Manjakote police station party, on a specific information, carried out a search operation in Kotli Kalaban forest this afternoon and recovered 15 packets of RDX, each weighing one kg.

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2005

### **Habibullah calls on Mirwaiz**

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Setting in motion the process to resume stalled talks between the Centre and the moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference, a representative of the Union Government today called on amalgam chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq. Panchayti Raj secretary Wajahat Habibullah met Mirwaiz at his Nigeen residence here this morning, amalgam sources said. Mirwaiz proposed second week of next month for resumption of talks to the Centre's representative, they said.

The Tribune, 28 August 2005

### **Separatists flay ban on speeches from mosques**

Srinagar, August 27: While the authorities are trying to fully implement the ban on political speeches from Muslim shrines and mosques under the Wakf Board in Jammu and Kashmir, separatist leaders have strongly reacted to the move describing it as uncalled for. They include the leaders of both factions of the Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Shah Geelani. The Mirwaiz, or chief priest of Kashmir, Moulvi Umar Farooq, who heads the Awami Action Committee, a constituent of the Hurriyat Conference, sharply reacted to the decision while addressing a Friday congregation at Jamia Masjid here yesterday. The Mirwaiz, who is also the chief of the United Council of Clerics, announced that a meeting of its top clerics in the state would be called soon to discuss the issue in its proper perspective. He said Islam was a complete way of life where religion and politics could not be separated. "We will not like people without religious education to take over unholy political means to exploit the public sentiments from mosques and shrines" he said

Daily Excelsior, 30 August 2005

### **Hurriyat may again insist on meeting Musharraf first**

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: The much-awaited meeting between the Centre and the Hurriyat Conference is likely to be delayed further as the amalgam leaders may again seek an audience with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf at New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly next month before their talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Moderate Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chairman Yasin Malik and Democratic Freedom Party president Shabir Ahmed Shah have been invited by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to a meeting of its Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir at New York on September 19. The 56-member grouping has also invited them to attend the annual coordination meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC States to be held during the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly at New York on September 23.

Daily Excelsior, 30 August 2005

**Probe into alleged fake killings ordered  
Camps still exist in Pak: Prasad**

JAMMU, Aug 29: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Hari Prasad has said that terrorists' infrastructure and training camps still exist on that side of the Line of Control (LoC) and the infiltration continued despite several measures taken by the security agencies. Talking to media-persons at Usman Club here today during an interaction organised on his retirement on Aug 31, the Northern Army Commander said though level of infiltration has been reduced considerably with the Army efforts, yet infiltration attempts continued from that side. Quoting an example, Gen Prasad said hardly a few days back the troops intercepted a message of killings of two terrorists on the LoC and injury to another one who managed to escape back to PoK. "It shows that attempts are going on but it has become very tough for them to intrude into this side after strong fencing which has yielded good results", he said.

Daily Excelsior, 30 August 2005

**Lakhs swindled in Sarp Vinash relief**

JAMMU, Aug 29: Vigilance Organisation has detected irregularities worth several lakhs of rupees in distribution of relief to the people affected by 'Operation Sarp Vinash' in 2003 by the officers of Revenue Departments in Surankote and Poonch. Entire record pertaining to disbursement of relief has been seized by a high level team of the Organisation which carried out simultaneous raids in the offices of Revenue Departments in Poonch and Surankote during last two days. Involvement of about a dozen officials including three senior officers is being investigated. Official sources told the Excelsior that raids were conducted by the Vigilance sleuths after a preliminary inquiry held in the scam confirmed that lakhs of rupees had been misappropriated by the officers while disbursing the relief.

Daily Excelsior, 30 August 2005

**Shah's bid to unite Hurriyat**

SRINAGAR, Aug 29 : Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) chairman Shabir Ahmad Shah has admitted that he is in constant touch with both the moderate and the hardliner factions of the Hurriyat Conference to bring about unity among the warring amalgam groups. Interacting with the people in Kupwara district yesterday, Mr Shah accused the Indian intelligence agencies of scuttling the efforts made by him to unite the warring Hurriyat factions - one led by moderate Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and the other by hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2005

**Hurriyat discusses talks, constitutional amendments** (Sarwar Kashani)

Srinagar, Aug 30: While as suspense over what transpired in All Parties Hurriyat Conference executive meeting today loomed large, sources within the Hurriyat said that besides delving on talks with New Delhi, the executive meeting also decided on extending formal invitation to Anjuman Shari-e-Shian outfit to join the amalgam. According to details, the executive council of Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today met at Mirwaiz's residence at Nageen Srinagar. While as media entry was barred during the meeting, sources said that the meeting, attended by all executive members, was convened today to look at the possibilities of talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and inclusion of Anjuman Shari-e-Shian in APHC. Sources said that incorporating certain constitutional amendments were also referred in the morning for which a 3-member committee has already been framed. While elaborating on the Hurriyat-New Delhi talks, sources said that the issue was touched at length and the amalgam has decided to talk to the Prime Minister.

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2005

**HM 'commander' shot dead in Mahore**

JAMMU, Aug 30: A "deputy battalion commander" of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit was gunned down by Army and police in an encounter at village Bharneli in Mahore tehsil of Reasi police district early this morning while SHO Koteranka in Rajouri district had a narrow escape in firing by a SPO, who deserted police last night along with an

AK rifle. Official reports said Army and police launched a joint operation at village Bharneli in Dhramankote area, about eight kms from Mahore at 11 pm last night after getting a report from the people that a top Hizbul Mujahideen militant had come to his house in Bharneli to meet his family members. Security personnel laid a cordon around the house of the militant at 1 am and asked him to come out and surrender. The militant, however, didn't oblige and instead opened firing on Army and police jawans. Security forces exercised restraint to avert civilian casualties. At about 4.15 am, the militant was gunned down inside a room of his house from where he was resorting to firing. He has been identified as Shamas-ud-Din alias Basharat (Call Sign 99) son of Mohd Israel R/o Bharneli.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2005

#### **Army orders probe into fake killings in J&K**

Jammu, August 29: Army today ordered a probe into the allegation that four natives of a border hamlet here were killed by its personnel in April in a fake encounter claiming them to be militants to get gallantry awards.

"We have ordered a probe into it. We will take it to logical conclusion," general officer, Commanding in Chief Lt Gen Hari Prasad told reporters here after the incident came to light following the receipt of an anonymous letter, purportedly written by a soldier, to the mother of a victim. "Anyone found at fault will be seriously dealt with. We will do the inquiry as fast as possible, appropriate action would be taken if we find anything against anybody," Gen Prasad said. During the investigation it was found that one operation had taken place on the said date (April 20) and the said place (Lolab in Kashmir) and in this two militants were killed, he said.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2005

#### **Oppn disrupts LS on issue of Kashmiri Pandits**

New Delhi, August 29: Amid a noisy walkout by the BJP-led NDA in Lok Sabha on the issue of assisting displaced Kashmiri Pandits, government today tried to turn the tables on the Opposition seeking to know the steps they had taken in the interest of the migrants when they were in power. Countering the Opposition attack during a discussion on calling attention motion on the issue, Home Minister Shivraj Patil asserted that the UPA government was "alive" to the problem and had provided Rs 32 crore in 2004-05 and Rs 30 crore in 2005-06 for relief and rehabilitation of migrant families. "Let us not play politics with the families who have suffered a lot. Let us try to help them," he said rebutting charges that the Manmohan Singh government had failed to do justice to the Kashmiri Pandits who had left the Valley in the nineties in the wake of terrorism in the state. Patil also denied that facilities being provided to these families including cash compensation were being reduced to force them to go back to the Valley. "We shall be happy if they go back to their homes/fields and shops but they cannot be forced by stopping compensation and other facilities," the minister said.

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2005

#### **Electoral rolls revision date extended**

JAMMU, Aug 30: Keeping in view the demand from various organizations, political parties and prominent persons for extension of filling claims and objections in the draft electoral rolls, the Election Commission of India has extended the period for intensive revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir, except Pattan assembly constituency to September 25. Earlier, the last date for filling of claims and objections was August 19. Informing about the revised schedule, Chief Electoral Officer Rakesh K. Gupta said that the last date for filling claims and objections, which include addition, deletion and corrections has been fixed as September 25. Holding detailed deliberations with representatives of various political parties, the Chief Electoral Officer apprised that the draft electoral rolls are also available on the internet.

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2005

#### **PHE Minister escapes bid on life, PSO injured**

Srinagar, Aug 30: Minister for Public Health and Engineering Qazi Mohammed Afzal, former minister Moulvi Iftikhar Hussain and MLC Basharat Bukhari escaped bid on their lives when militants fired rifle grenades towards their rally in Pattan this evening. A security guard was injured in the attack, the sources said. Militant outfit Al Aarifeen has owned responsibility of the attack. According to sources, top PDP brass including Moulvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari and Basharat Bukhari, led by PHE minister Qazi Mohammed Afzal, was on a visit to various villages of Pattan in north Kashmir district of Baramulla and had to address a public gathering in a High School in Chandrahama, Pattan. As soon as rally started and the PHE Minister began his address, the militants fired two rifle grenades from a distance, one of which exploded at a distance of 50 yards from the rally site, the sources said, adding that a personal guard of PHE minister Mohammed Ayub received splinter injuries. He was rushed to hospital. The other grenade didn't explode and was, immediately, defused. The grenade attack caused little disturbances to the rally, however, it got back on the track soon.

Greater Kashmir, 31 August 2005

**Arundhati Roy, others seek UN intervention (SHOWKAT A MOTTA)**

Srinagar, Aug 30: On the International Day of Disappeared on Tuesday, efforts of the families of Kashmiris missing in the custody of security agencies bore fruit as Indian intelligentsia shared their pain and grief and called for an end to human rights abuses in the state. To commemorate the day nearly half-a-dozen families had rushed to New Delhi under the banner of Srinagar-based Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) to draw the people's attention towards their tragedy. Led by Parveena Ahanger (50) whose son Javed Ahanger (30, if alive) vanished after his arrest from Batmaloo here in June 1990, the victims poured out their heart during a seminar entitled "Enforced Disappearances in Jammu & Kashmir" held at Delhi's Indian Social Institute. According to the APDP, about 8,000-10,000 persons have disappeared in the security agencies' custody since the beginning of the raging anti-India rebellion in the state in 1989. The victims, the rights grouping claims, include a nine-year-old student and a 75-year-old schoolteacher.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2005

**'Training camps across border exist'**

Jammu, August 29: AMID secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan at Delhi, where terrorism is a major issue, Army here today said there were tangible evidence of cross-border terrorism and training camps across the border. Addressing a press conference here today, outgoing GOC-in-C of Northern Command Lt Gen Hari Prasad said there are a number of training camps across the border. "We have solid evidence of it," said the GOC-in-C. Describing the present militancy in J&K as "low-cost", he said it was not high-profile terrorism. However, he said terrorism has reduced tremendously. "Peace is round the corner," added Lt Gen Prasad. When asked about the spurt in terrorist-related violence in recent weeks, he said increase in the level of violence shows the desperation among the militants. "They want to show their presence and these incidents are an indication of their frustration. I do not even describe it as terrorism, but heinous crimes committed by them," said Lt Gen Hari Prasad. Talking about his term as GOC-in-C of the Northern Command, he said he had a dream to see the end of terrorism before his retirement. "I saw the start of insurgency in the state.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2005

**Parents of missing youths prepare list of bodies that defy Army claims**

Srinagar, August 30: EVEN as the Army has ordered an inquiry to ascertain whether the four persons killed by troops of 18 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were militants or innocent labourers, the Association of the Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) said the incident is just the tip of the iceberg. APDP, a voluntary organisation formed to trace the whereabouts of youths who went missing in the custody of security forces, said there have been several incidents where innocent civilians have been killed in fake encounters after being labelled as local or foreign militants. The association has compiled a list of such cases. Some of these are listed below: March 14, 2000: The Army claimed three Pakistani terrorists — Barab Khan, Hafiz Khan and Zaffar Iqbal Qureshi — were killed in an encounter with troops of 19 RR at Chuntwaliwaar in Ganderbal. The troops also claimed that three AK rifles were recovered from their possession.

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2005

**HC directs JU not to grant fresh permission for BEd colleges**

JAMMU, Aug 30: The State High Court has directed University of Jammu not to grant permission for opening fresh BEd Colleges even after the recommendation of the State Government. This order was passed in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by the Division Bench comprising Justice VK Jhaji and Justice YP Nargotra after hearing Advocate Sunil Hali appearing for the PIL. It was observed that there were 65 BEd Colleges in Jammu province and vide order of July 8, 2005 issued by this Court, the University authorities were directed to appoint a committee to inspect all BEd Colleges within Jammu province and prepare a status report disclosing the shortcomings in the norms fixed by the University. The report of the Committee appointed by the University, submitted its status report, in which the committee inspected 16 colleges. It was submitted that there were irregularities and violations of the norms committed by the Colleges.