

Daily Excelsior, 1 August 2006

**Four Pak infiltrators killed; 12 surrender**

Srinagar, July 31: Four heavily armed Pakistani infiltrators were killed and 10 people, including seven Amarnath pilgrims wounded while 12 militants surrendered before security forces in Kashmir valley during the past 24 hours. A Defence Ministry spokesman said troops, noticed some suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez Sector of Baramulla district in the wee hours today. As the troops challenged and asked them to surrender, the infiltrators fired heavily, he said adding the fire was retaliated effectively and in the fierce encounter four militants were killed. Seven Amarnath pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab were among the 10 people injured in a grenade blast at a crowded bus stand in Batmaloo this afternoon, official sources said..

Daily Excelsior, 1 August 2006

**222 cross LoC in Poonch**

Poonch, July 31: A highest number of 222 civilians today crossed Line of Control (LoC) at Chakan-Da-Bagh on Poonch-Rawalakot fortnightly bus service. While 106 civilians crossed over to this side from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), 116 civilians crossed over to PoK from here, official sources said. Out of 106 civilians, who came here from PoK in Rawalakot-Poonch bus, 76 were new faces while 30 returned to their houses here after spending sometime with their divided families and friends in PoK..

Indian Express, 1 August 2006

**Jawans had told their bosses of Lashkar pressure (Shishir Gupta)**

New Delhi, July 31: Even before they were picked up, the three soldiers of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry had regularly kept their respective commanding officers (COs) informed about the pressure they were under from Lashkar e Toiba (LeT) militants who kept visiting their homes in search of food and rations. This is according to an Army Headquarters investigation into the alleged Lashkar links of Lance Naik Mohammed Shakeel, Naik Mohammed Sharief and Sepoy Abdul Haq..

Greater Kashmir, 1 August 2006

**Perspective: The death of Dreams (Omar Abdullah)**

..We have a bus plying between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad that is seldom able to find its full component of passengers, we have a few more border crossing points as well but paperwork and formalities being what they are they have been unable to live up to the promise that they were launched with. We have a cease-fire along the border and LOC, which has managed to hold quite remarkably, but not much beyond this. The much hyped cross LoC trade has proved to be a non starter and is doomed to die before it was to even begun to breath. To my mind the biggest CBM for the people has been the dream of a peaceful negotiated settlement, a settlement that is honourable and equitable and one that all sides to this vexed problem will find acceptable..

Daily Excelsior, 1 August 2006

**Justice Mir resigns as Chairman SHRC (Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)**

Srinagar, July 31: Justice (Retd) Ali Mohammad Mir today tendered resignation as Chairperson of the J&K State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). In his resignation

letter to Governor, Justice Mir has recorded that abuse of human rights was growing in the State and the Government had not implemented even a single recommendation referred to it by SHRC in the last three years..

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2006

**JeM strikes twice, kills four CRPF, BSF jawans**

Srinagar, Aug 1 : Militants of Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) struck twice killing four security personnel in Srinagar when the Legislative Assembly and Council sessions were on. Elsewhere in Kashmir, two militants and a security jawan were among four people killed while security forces arrested five ultras, including two top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) during the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said that at 1130 hours, militants shot at two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel at Dalgate..

The Hindustan Times, 2 August 2006

**Perspective: Securing the State (Vikram Sood)**

Nearly sixty years of uninterrupted Pakistani interference in India's internal affairs, from the time of infiltrating Afridi tribesmen into Kashmir accompanied by Pak troops, assistance to Phizo, assistance to Sikh terrorists and down to Kashmir today, nearly 40,000 killed, innumerable assassinations, 70,000 wounded, 25,000 AK-47/56/74s, 50,000 grenades, 4,000 rockets and 5,000 kg of RDX captured, and much more, yet the US asks India for evidence about Pak complicity. Ironically, for years we went scurrying all over the world complaining about Pakistani involvement but were unwilling to do battle ourselves. Instead, India is now being unceremoniously asked to restrain itself despite far greater evidence than for which Iraq continues to be ravaged..

Indian Express, 2 August 2006

**Opinion: Tracking Terror PART-2: Ceding Kashmir Third class governance cant give first-class response to terrorism (Arun Shourie)**

..But while we keep repeating, Terrorists will not be allowed to succeed, the fact is that through them Pakistan has already succeeded in several respects: It has succeeded in creating the impression I dare say, in India too that the status of Kashmir vis a vis India is not a settled issue. Indeed, that what will happen in the future, what some Government of India will do is an open question. When it is asked in Parliament, Does the Government stand by the unanimous Resolution which Parliament had passed, namely that the only unfinished business relating to J&K is that we have to get back the parts of the state that Pakistan has usurped?, the Government remains silent..

Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2006

**Editorial: Enters new President**

As speculated in knowledgeable circles Raza Zulqarnain Khan has become President of Azad Kashmir which is the local name of the occupied territory across the Line of Control (LoC). His election was a foregone conclusion after he was adopted by the ruling Muslim Conference as its candidate. It was in the air for quite some time that the powers-that-be in Islamabad had opted to favour him. Not surprisingly, therefore, he has secured more votes than he would have got simply as the MC nominee. He belongs to one of

those families that have enjoyed power on both sides of the LoC..

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2006

**Azad with pride: World must learn honouring human rights from India (Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)**

Srinagar, Aug 2: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today contradicted the figures projected by separatist as well as mainstream political parties regarding the strength of armed forces personnel in Jammu & Kashmir. He claimed with proud that Indias human rights record was better than any countrys all over the world as Police and security forces in J&K and elsewhere were strictly accountable. In a forceful contradiction to Justice Ali Mohammad Mirs allegation that Government had not implemented even a single recommendation of the State Human Rights Commission in the last three years, Azad claimed that necessary action had been taken in as many as 383 out of 440 recommendations received from the Commission..

The Hindu, 3 August 2006

**Violence cannot derail peace process: Azad (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said that the peace process between India and Pakistan would not get derailed by militancy. He said the lowest number of human rights violations in the State was recorded in 2006. Replying to a discussion on human rights in the Legislative Council, Mr. Azad said during the last three-and-a-half years of coalition rule, the peace process had progressed enormously. All these changes took place in the backdrop of hostilities between two countries after the Kargil War, he said, asking members not to give up on the peace process..

The Kashmir Times, 3 August 2006

**Mehbooba calls on PM, urges demilitarisation**

New Delhi, Aug 2: Stressing the need to carry forward peace process with a focus on J&K-specific Confidence Building Measures, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and Member Parliament, Mehbooba Mufti today urged the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to provide real reprieve to the people in the form of measured reduction of troops from the internal security..

Daily Excelsior, 3 August 2006

**Editorial: Tale to remember**

It should not surprise anyone that a group of Kashmiri militants has surrendered to the Army. There should be no astonishment either that they have revealed how they were shabbily treated in training camps on the other side of the Line of Control. Twelve of them who gave up along with their weapons in Baramulla district on Monday have undergone a similar harrowing experience. They were told how to handle arms and ammunition and were sought to be brainwashed in the name of jihad. Soon, however, they were to realise that they were being taken for a ride. There was clear discrimination between them and Pakistani and other foreign mercenaries..

Greater Kashmir, 3 August 2006

**LC members object to HC monitoring of sex abuse case**

Srinagar, Aug 2: Without mentioning sexual exploitation case, various members in Legislative Council on Wednesday objected to the High Court monitoring of the case. Speaking during discussion on human rights situation, Prof. Bhim Singh described Kashmir High Court Bar Associations stand over non-appearance for accused as human rights violation..

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2006

**Kulhand massacre accused trapped in Doda gunbattle**

Jammu, Aug 3: Ashraf Ganai, main accused in Kulhand massacre on April 31 night in which 18 civilians of minority community were massacred by the ultras, was tonight trapped in a fierce gun-battle with Army and police at Gundana in Doda district. A militant was killed while six Army jawans were injured in the encounter, one of them seriously while a house was extensively damaged as the gun-battle that started at 3 pm intensified tonight. Official sources confirmed the presence of Ashraf Ganai in the house of Master Riaz at Gundana when the operation was launched by Army and police..

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2006

**Court defers bail in sex scam**

Srinagar, Aug 3: A court here today deferred the hearing on bail applications of four persons arrested in connection with the sex racket case as the defence counsel could not reach the court in time. Sessions Judge M Yaqoob Mir adjourned the hearing of the bail applications of Deputy Superintendent of Police M Ashraf Mir, Sabeena, the alleged kingpin of the sex racket, her husband A Hameed Bhulla and Mehrajuddin Malik till August five..

Greater Kashmir, 4 August 2006

**Govts HR figures clash with SHRC (Arshad Me Raj)**

Srinagar, Aug 3: Three days after Justice (retd) A M Mir resigned as chairman of State Human Rights Commission, the government on Thursday issued figures on custodial killings and disappearances which clash with SHRCs annual report. According to the government figures tabled in Assembly, three cases of custodial disappearances have been reported in 2004 and one in 2005..

The Kashmir Times, 4 August 2006

**In case of fresh attacks stop CBMs : Beig**

Srinagar, Aug 3: Deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Beig today said that if the attacks on tourists continued in future he will pressurize the government of India that no fresh Confidence Building Measures should be initiated with Pakistan. Beig was addressing the inaugural function of a 5 day conference of tour and travel operators from across the country at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC), here today. The Dy CM observed that peace is imperative that too essentially for Pakistan for its survival..

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2006

**Editorial: Why we need to be on our toes**

On an average the terrorists inflict two heart-rending tragedies in the country every month. Till July 17 there have been 16 such occurrences this year. These are spread over a big part of the country barring the Southern states. In between highly familiar venues like Jammu and Kashmir and Assam the terrorists have desperately tried to create new trouble-spots.. We in J&K happen to watch more than one bomb explosion every 24 hours. The militants deprive someone of his or her life in one or the other corner with a sickening regularity. They have not spared religious shrines either. Their ire this year has been directed against tourists too. This is not to say that they are having a free run. To the contrary they have been considerably contained..

The Hindu, 5 August 2006

**Bill ensuring equal development of all J&K regions passed (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Friday passed a Bill to ensure equal development of all regions in the State by equitable distribution of available resources. Under the Bill, all backlog regarding development at the regional and district levels would be cleared. The salient features of the Bill include the constitution of the State Finance Commission (Section 3), a body to exercise the powers conferred upon it.. The Bill is an effort to ward off repeated criticism alleging discrimination within the three regions: Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh..

Greater Kashmir, 5 August 2006

**Opinion: Kashmir politics and the landmarks of history (Ghulam Nabi Hagroo)**

The announcement of eight new districts and 13 tehsils and establishment of more seats of legislative assembly and also opening of so many routes across both the sides of Kashmir are believed to be historical decisions like so many taken so far by the leadership. Perceptibly these decisions do provide so many facilities to the people and so the people feel jubilant. But to me, people express their jubilation for making the New Delhi government to admit and accept a few of their genuine requirements and demands after fifty nine years..

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2006

**Editorial: Care for them**

How does one describe the fact that 34.5 per cent of children below three years of age are underweight in Jammu and Kashmir? By no yardstick can it be called a happy position. The disclosure comes in the wake of United Nations Childrens Funds latest document: Progress for children: a report card on nutrition. The Fund is better known by the popular acronym of the UNICEF based on its old name United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund. There is extreme worry in global circles that unless the world alters its priorities the UN may not be able to meet its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five..

Greater Kashmir, 5 August 2006

**Rains disrupt life, 3 killed (Mudasir Ali)**

Srinagar, Aug 4: Incessant rains since Thursday night caused damage to property at many

places in the state and closure of Srinagar-Jammu highway for vehicular traffic. However there is no immediate threat of flood in the Valley as Jehlum is flowing below the danger mark, officials declared. Three persons were swept away in a flash flood when they were trying to cross a nullah at Basoli in Kathua district of Jammu region early this morning..

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2006

#### **Bar calls for Jammu bandh on August 11**

Jammu, Aug 4: Bar Association Jammu, supported by 35 other organizations, has called for a Jammu Bandh on August 11, 2006. The call has been given in support of Bars demand for shifting of much publicized Kashmir sex scandal case from Srinagar to Jammu court or any other place other than the valley.. The Bar release said that many NGOs, including PAPA and PAI also extended their support to strike and bandh call..

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2006

#### **Attempt to weaken India wont be tolerated: CM**

Srinagar, Aug 5: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that India is a peaceful country but any attempt to weaken it and threatening its integrity will not be tolerated. It is the duty of every citizen from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari to protect our motherland from any internal and external forces, Mr Azad said while addressing the passing out parade of 248 recruits of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) at Bana Singh Parade Ground here..

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2006

#### **4 more arrested in sex scam**

Srinagar, Aug 5: A local court today remanded four people into three-day CBI remand for their alleged involvement in the sex racket which rocked the Kashmir valley in April this year. With this a total of 18 people, including two former minister and sitting legislators Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Raman Mattoo, senior IAS officer Iqbal Khanday, former Additional Advocate General Anil Sethi, a BSF DIG and a police officer besides kingpin Sabeena and her husband, were arrested..

Greater Kashmir, 6 August 2006

#### **Post resignation, Justice Mir to launch Kashmir think tank (Riyaz Masroor)**

Srinagar, Aug 5: Fighting rebels the wrong way. That was perhaps, the contention of 66-year-old Justice (retd) Ali Muhammad Mir who renounced the chair of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Tuesday. Just one custodial death, Mir asserts, keeps on breeding anti-state feelings for centuries. In an exhaustive chat with Greater Kashmir, Mir disclosed his post-resignation plans, which include setting up a think tank and holding politicians accountable for their utterances about Kashmir issue..

The Tribune, 6 August 2006

#### **Jamait Amirs election on August 9**

Jammu, August 5: The ensuing organisational election in the Jamait-e-Islami in Jammu and Kashmir has assumed significance as the choice of the council of representatives, the electoral college for electing the Amir, will determine whether the hardliners, headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, stand sidelined or not. The election for the post of Amir and other

office-bearers is to be completed on August 9 and 10..

Daily Excelsior, 7 August 2006

**60 Pak trained ultras cross over from Rajouri-Poonch: IGP**

Jammu, Aug 6: At least 60 militants trained in various camps in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir (PoK) have managed to cross over to this side from Rajouri and Poonch districts recently to carry on the activities of violence and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference here today, Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone, Dr S P Vaid said that infiltration was going on from the Pakistani side and as per the intelligence inputs, nearly 60 Pak trained militants have managed to cross the Line of Control and sneaked into Rajouri and Poonch sectors recently. He admitted that infiltration along the Line of Control has increased and there was not reduction in it..

Indian Express, 7 August 2006

**Ten hurt in Kashmir grenade explosion**

Srinagar, August 6: At least 10 people, including five policemen, were wounded on Sunday when suspected terrorists hurled a grenade at a crowded crossing in Kashmir, police said. The attack was the second in 24 hours and was aimed at a security patrol in Baramulla district, north of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, they said. On Saturday, eight people including six soldiers were wounded when militants threw two grenades at a security camp in the same area..

Greater Kashmir, 7 August 2006

**Working Group meets today**

Srinagar: The first meeting of the Prime Ministers Working Group on good governance is being held here at Srinagar on Monday under the Chairmanship of Dr. NC Saxena, ex-secretary to the Planning Commission, an official spokesman said. He said the terms of reference of the Working Group are increasing accountability and transparency of the administration, strengthening local self-government, effective monitoring of the developmental programmes, institution of zero tolerance for human rights violation, strengthening the Right to Information and provision of security to all segments of society particularly the minority communities..

Kashmir Times, 7 August 2006

**Editorial: Their sacrifice at our service**

..Yet, in most states, even now ministers, not to speak of the MLAs and MLCs, draw significantly less than the senior officers under them. Jammu and Kashmirs elected leaders, however, suddenly discovered that the situation was totally unjust and intolerable. So, at one go, in half-a-weeks time, a bill was moved and passed ensuring a rise in the monthly emoluments of J&K legislators and ministers, by nearly 400 to 500%, to a gross minimum of Rs. 40,300 for the former. The ministers, in fact, will get a little more. Besides, they enjoy an attractive daily allowance for the days they attend the sessions of the legislature -- even when it is not allowed to function by some of its wild gesticulating members -- free chauffeur-driven cars and free telephone facility etc..

Daily Excelsior, 8 August 2006

**Hostage drama ends as 2 militants killed, 3 rescued**

Srinagar, Aug 7: Even as militants gunned down two soldiers, looted their weapons and escaped in Kulgam-Qazigund belt of south Kashmir today, two militants and a soldier got killed and three persons were rescued in a fierce gunbattle at Shirpora in the same militant-infested area. Meanwhile, two more militants have been killed by security forces in an encounter in Machhil area of Kupwara district and suspected militants have eliminated a civilian in Anantnag district since last evening..

Daily Excelsoir, 8 August 2006

**Opinion: Contradictions galore (Sarla Handoo)**

For a long time we have been witnessing conflicting reports and contradictions between the security agencies at work in Jammu and Kashmi, almost ever since Militancy broke out in the state in 1989. This has been one important factor responsible for less than adequate response to the challenge the militants have thrown up. Unfortunately, the Authorities have been brushing it aside as part of the game. The fact is that such contradictions are there because of the turf war amongst different wings of the intelligence apparatus, the Army, the police and the civil authorities..

Kashmir Times, 8 August 2006

**Working group on good governance kick-off deliberations**

Srinagar, Aug 7: One of the five working groups constituted by the state government on the direction of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to address various issues on Kashmir began its deliberations here today. Headed by former secretary to the Planning Commission Dr N C Saxena, the group will deliberate, among other things on increasing accountability and transparency of the administration, strengthening local self-government and effective monitoring of developmental programmes..Dr Saxena said among other things measures for strengthening public infrastructure and ensuring free access of people to the services would also be deliberated upon in the meeting..

Kashmir Times, 8 August 2006

**Editorial: Whom to talk to in Kashmir?**

Responding to the NCs Dr. Mehboob Beigs question, why the centre did not have any serious and consistent policy for resolving the Kashmir problem, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad bravely came to the rescue of his masters at New Delhi and told the J&K Legislative assembly, on July 4, 2006, that given the multiplicity of militant outfits and variegated ideologies of the separatist leaders in Kashmir it was very difficult for the centre to decide whom to talk to. Obviously holding a brief for the centre he was exaggerating the difficulties in talking to half a dozen militant and separatist groups. In fact, there is no serious difficulty in taking a decision..

Indian Express, 8 August 2006

**Hiding militants take 3 civilians hostage**

..On specific information, troops of 9 Rashtriya Rifles and SOG cordoned a house in Shirpora village in Kulgam district this morning. The troops sent three civilians Manzoor Ahmad Tantray, Abid Ahmad and Feroz Ahmad all residents of Shirpora inside the house

where the militants were trapped. The three civilians, according to the locals, were taken hostage by the militants. Police said before launching the operation against the holed up militants they pulled out all the three civilians. And later they gunned down the two militants, while three soldiers also sustained injuries in the operation..

Daily Excelsior, 9 August 2006

**17 injured in Handwara grenade attack**

Srinagar, Aug 8: At least 17 persons were injured, including a newly married couple, when militants tossed a grenade towards attacked a CRPF vehicle at Handwara this afternoon. Highly placed sources said that militants at around 1215 hours on Tuesday tossed a grenade towards a vehicle of CRPF near Fire Station Handwara close to the residence of former minister and sitting MLA Sofi Ghulam Mohiuddin injuring at least 17 persons. Eyewitnesses said that the grenade hit the CRPF vehicle but bounced back and exploded on the road side..

Daily excelsior, 9 August 2006

**Arrests likely in two days as HC dissatisfied with CBI working**

Srinagar, Aug 8: Facing displeasure of a Division Bench (DB) of J&K High Court over its slow pace in investigating the infamous Srinagar sex scandal, CBI is likely to arrest some more of the accused whose names have figured in statements and case diaries of the agency during three-month-long investigation. Some high ranking officials, including a DIG and SSP, as also some politicians and hotel operators are understood to be picked up before the next day of hearing on August 11th..Meanwhile, August 17th was fixed as next date of hearing for the main trial which would run incamera in the court of PDSJ Srinagar..

The Hindu, 9 August 2006

**Mehbooba disputes Azads assertion (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: The coalition partners in J & K are contradicting each other on whether the security situation in the State has improved or not. Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad last week said that compared with previous years it has shown considerable improvement. The first one to contradict the Chief Minister was PDP president Mehbooba Mufti who argued that the statistics given by Mr. Azad were provided to him by security agencies and they would not help to understand the ground situation. The PDP is the partner in the coalition government headed by the Congress..

Kashmir Times, 9 August 2006

**Editorial: Lawyers stir**

This is a paradox in a democracy that those help the people to secure justice, themselves have put the entire judicial process at ransom and that too in the name of seeking fair dealing. Lawyers stir in Jammu, which has entered 43rd day paralyzing entire functioning of all the courts, has put the litigants to a plethora of unimaginable difficulties. The lawyers under the banner of Bar Association Jammu (BAJ) went on strike in support of their demand to shift the case of sex scandal out of the Valley which also put the Bar Associations of the two capital cities on a collision course..

Greater Kashmir, 9 August 2006

**Editorial: Why this vilification?**

An act of sabotage or a terror strike anywhere in India is soon followed by pointing of needle of suspicion against Kashmiris living around the site of the incident. While the real hands that carry out an attack vanish in crowds and reach their predetermined hideouts in a matter of minutes or hours the innocent Kashmiris are first to be hounded by local police. They are hauled in police vehicles irrespective of their age, status or reputation they enjoy in the locality. They are Kashmiris therefore they are the terrorists, is the perception carried by police and agencies across India..

Daily excelsior, 10 August 2006

**SPO masterminded Mangnar massacre (Sanjeev Pargal)**

Jammu, Aug 9: There has been no let up in the instances of police-militants nexus. Latest to be arrested under one such nexus is another Special Police Officer (SPO), who has been charged with massacre of four persons in company with four activists of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) at Mangnar in Poonch district. Mohd Yunus son of Abdul Lateef, a resident of Mangnar, a SPO posted in the same village, has been arrested by Poonch police for his involvement in the killing of four members of minority community at Mangnar on the intervening night of July 12 and 13..

Daily excelsior, 10 August 2006

**Sex scam accused DySP had info of Mumbai blasts (Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)**

Srinagar: A junior Police official, handling counter-intelligence in Jammu & Kashmir Police, had warned the State Government on June 14th about the Mumbai serial blasts that left nearly 200 people dead and hundreds wounded on July 11th. While the Government ignored crucial intelligence inputs, the Police official lost his table on June 30th when he was arrested by CBI for his alleged involvement in the infamous Srinagar sex scandal..

The Hindu, 10 August 2006

**Amarnath pilgrimage ends (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: Amid stepped up violence in Kashmir and charges of tampering with the Amarnath shrine, the two-month long pilgrimage to the cave in South Kashmir ended on Wednesday. Nearly 3,00,000 devotees paid obeisance. A special puja was performed after Mahant Dipindra Giri took the holy mace to the cave, which stands at an altitude of 3,880 metres. Governor Lt. Gen (retd.) S. K. Sinha, who is also Chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, was present..

Daily excelsior, 10 August 2006

**Editorial: On a volcano**

How do you describe the State in which the following quantity of arms and ammunition is seized, 7574 Kalashnikovs, 1957 pistols and revolvers, 136 machine-guns and self-loading rifles, 419 rocket propelled grenades, 70 sniper rifles, 193 rocket launchers, 992 rocket boosters, 866 kilograms of RDX, 9096 kilograms of explosive material, 2071 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 20494 grenades, 12550 detonators, 1351 rockets and 3032 wireless sets? Obviously it is sitting on a volcano. This is the quantum of

weapons recovered from terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir from 2000 to 2005..

The Hindu, 10 August 2006

**Killing of youth sparks strong protests in Srinagar (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: The killing of a youth by Central Reserve Police Force personnel for trying to hurl a grenade in a busy market sparked strong protests from residents, who insisted he was innocent. Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, a youth from Bandipore in north Kashmir, was shot dead by CRPF personnel during a routine search at Dalgate. CRPF spokesman Dilip Singh Ambesh told The Hindu that Sheikh was about to hurl a grenade when alert CRPF men caught him..

The Hindu, 11 August 2006

**LeT commander killed in Kashmir**

Srinagar : A top commander of the Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) and a police constable were among four persons killed in the Kashmir valley. A police spokesman said police launched a search operation at village Wanigam in the north Kashmir district of Baramulla early on Thursday. When the police personnel were sealing the area, militants opened fire which was effectively returned. A LeT self-styled district commander, Abu Harris, a resident of Pakistan, was killed in the encounter..

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2006

**CBI opposes bail to two others**

Srinagar, Aug 10: The CBI investigating the sex racket case here today opposed the bail plea of two accused, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police, in the case alleging they were involved in rape of a minor girl. Replying to the arguments of the defence counsel for granting bail to DySP M Ashraf Mir and Mehrajuddin Malik, CBI counsel R K Singh said the charge against the two was rape of a minor girl. He cited various rulings of the apex court whereby rape of a minor girl was considered a heinous crime as it affected the right to life of the victim..

Greater Kashmir, 11 August 2006

**Perspective: Law rescues women (Hamida Taranum)**

The recently unearthed infamous sex scandal, where young girls ever minors were targeted, exploited and sexually abused by people in top echelons of power and authority has brought us again to the fundamental question of status of women in our society. Are women really helpless creatures who cannot protect themselves from the vultures in the society is a question that is writ on the faces of eves daughter all over the state..Among the various safeguards set by the legislators, the one most frequently recourse is Section 125 of Indian Criminal Procedure Code or Section 125 of Ranbir Criminal Procedure Code in our state..

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2006

**Editorial: Drifting away**

Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddins latest outburst only confirms that he is drifting away with each passing moment. Initially he had built the image of a wronged Kashmiri politician. Now he has acquired that of one motivated solely by the gun culture.

His interview to a prestigious Pakistani weekly leaves no doubt about this. His call to Pakistan that it should intervene militarily to resolve the Kashmir issue shows the extent to which he is prepared to go. He is convinced that no political solution is possible. He has blamed India and the international community for having wasted the opportunity by not responding to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's confidence-building measures..

Kashmir Times, 12 August 2006

**Editorial: Killing of innocents**

While acknowledging the fact that the security forces have a difficult job to do in the valley it cannot be denied that decades of experience in handling insurgencies, starting from the North East to Punjab and now Jammu and Kashmir the forces have still not got their act together. They still goes by the dictum that a bit of danda and brute forces should settle things. The latest in the long list of killings in the valley is the gunning down of a Amar Singh college student who was standing in the wayside and apparently got into an argument with some CRPF men. Whatever the nature of the argument that took place it does not give a licence to the forces to kill any one in this manner..

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2006

**20 injured in 2 grenade blasts**

Srinagar, Aug 11: At least 20 persons were injured in separate grenade explosions on Friday at Baramulla and Sopore while as two militants believed to be belonging to Harkat-ul-Mujahideen were killed in an encounter at Manzgam, Kulgam. According to sources, at least six persons sustained splinter injuries when a mysterious explosion occurred inside a tailoring shop in Mir Mohalla in Baramulla..

Daily excelsior, 12 August 2006

**Editorial: Terror trail**

For obvious reasons we in this State ought to know each and every facet of terrorism. It is only when we as citizens are well equipped in terms of information and determination we can take care of this evil. It has flourished into a multi-crore industry. There are many virtually rags-to-riches stories in front of us. The Union Home Ministry has calculated on the basis of available reports that terrorist groups in the country have been receiving funds from abroad mainly through hawala and informal channels. It estimates flow of funds to these outfits to be of the order of several crores every year. If it finds it difficult to mention the figure of exact quantum it is understandable..

Kashmir Times, 12 August 2006

**Mehbooba takes up cudgels with Azad**

Jammu, Aug 11: Reacting to the Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azads utterances equating self-rule with selfishness, the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has said, Self Rule for Jammu and Kashmir was a well considered option presented by her party as a way out for its people to come out of their problems. Pertinent mention Azad after laying foundation stone of Indira Gandhi Government Dental College here on Aug 9 had lashed out at those demanding self-rule saying, for them self-rule means their own well being and nothing else..

Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2006

**Multi-crore foodgrain scam detected in Doda**

Kud, Aug 11: After expose of foodgrain scam worth Rs 11 cr in Wadwan and Marwah area of Kishtwar, yet another multi-crore scam has been detected by Doda police in the district with the arrest of seven persons including two officials of the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) department..

Indian Express, 13 August 2006

**Three LeT terrorists killed in encounter**

Srinagar, August 13: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Handwara area of Kupwara district, a defence spokesman said on Sunday. On specific information, army laid a cordon of Ringpath village in Handwara area on Saturday. A search operation was started during which the terrorists opened fire on security forces. The troops retaliated killing the trio..

The Hindu, 13 August 2006

**3 civilians mistakenly killed by Army in Kupwara**

Kupwara: The Army on Saturday mistakenly killed three civilians in two separate incidents in Kupwara district triggering a blockade of the Srinagar-Kupwara highway for hours. A murder case has been registered. Witnesses told The Hindu that Ghulam Mohiuddin Tantray (48) and Rubina (14) left their Chahalpati home near Dragmulla in Kupwara to fetch firewood from the nearby jungle..

Daily Excelsior, 13 August 2006

**Opinion: Aspirations of people (V P Kotwal)**

The J&K State is known for its unique unity in diversity and mostly because of the facts that almost after every 50 Kms. distance especially in hilly areas there is change of the language. Here more than 25 languages are spoken in different illaqa of the State..In this context, it will not be out of place to mention here that Pakistan will never wish to keep it an Independent State because of the reason that it has to loose PoK and Northern areas which provide a landline link to China and having rich natural resources. Hence the proposal of making J&K State as an Independent State is ruled out by Pakistan as well as India and J&K people..

Indian Express, 13 August 2006

**Jammu: Surrendered militants rounded up, told to leave (Aditya V Singh)**

Jammu, August 12: As part of its beefed-up security measures on Independence Day eve, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have for the first time asked surrendered militants to immediately leave Jammu for the next few days..Meanwhile, all 13 police stations in Jammu city were instructed ten days ago by senior officers to round up surrendered militants staying in their respective areas, sources said..

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2006

**Hizb commander killed in Doda**

Jammu, Aug 13: A district commander of Hizbul Mujahideen was gunned down by Doda police along with security forces and CRPF in an encounter at village Majar in Chatroo

area of Doda district this morning while a blast occurred near a religious place at Thathri last night. Police recovered three High Explosive (HE) grenades during a search operation at Tanda in Akhnoor tehsil..

Greater Kashmir, 14 August 2006

### **Massive security in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Aug 13: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have sounded a terror alert across the state and put in place massive security arrangements to thwart any attempts by militants to carry out strikes ahead of August 15. The entire summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir has virtually been turned into a fortress while security personnel spread far and wide in the state to thwart any attempt by the militants to cause large-scale disturbances in various parts of the Valley ahead of August 15..

Indian Express, 14 August 2006

### **Intercepts suggest al-Qaeda presence in J&K**

Jammu and Kashmir New Delhi, August 14: Intercepts of telecommunication messages between militants in Jammu and Kashmir and their mentors in Pakistan suggest that cadres of foreign terrorist group al-Qaeda were present in the Kashmir Valley. Senior security officials engaged in gathering techint, or technical intelligence, in the Valley said there were intercepts of communications between Lashker e Toiba cadres about the presence of al Qaeda members..

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2006

### **CM for early restoration of Leh road**

Srinagar, Aug 13: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig had an aerial survey of Gagangir area near Gund-Kangan where Srinagar-Leh national highway has got blocked due to cloud burst causing heavy flow of water and land slides accumulating debris at two places. This has resulted in stranding of hundreds of vehicles on either side of the highway..

Indian Express, 15 August 2006

### **Mobile services suspended in Kashmir Valley**

Srinagar, August 15: In an unprecedented move, mobile services of all telecom operators in Kashmir Valley were suspended for more than three hours to prevent the use of mobile phones by militants to set off blasts to disrupt Independence Day celebrations. BSNL mobile phones in entire Kashmir Valley stopped working from 0930 hours, half an hour before the commencement of the I-Day functions across the state..

Daily Excelsior, 15 August 2006

### **Separatists must join dialogue with the Centre: Azad**

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today put the onus on separatist and militant organisations to bring peace to the valley, saying they must take part in the dialogue process initiated by the Centre if they wish to see the Kashmir issue resolved..On the confidence building measures between India and Pakistan, Azad expressed hope that the trade routes across the Line of Control would be thrown open very soon..

Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2006

**Onus of peace on militants, separatists: CM**

Srinagar, Aug 15: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today put the onus on separatist and militant organisations to bring peace to the Valley, saying they must take part in the dialogue process initiated by the Centre if they wish to see the Kashmir issue resolved. Two round-table conferences were held for finding a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem, but the separatists stayed away..

Indian Express, 16 August 2006

**False alarm cuts short Srinagar I-Day parade**

Srinagar, August 15: The Independence Day parade at the Bakhshi Stadium here had to be cut short and Chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azad whisked away as a precaution after the recovery of a police uniform and binoculars at a shopping mall under construction nearby. To check terror, J-K suspends mobile services for three hours..The step was taken after a fidayeen wearing a police uniform stormed a public Congress rally which was to be addressed by the chief minister three months ago..

Greater Kashmir, 16 August 2006

**Opinion: Bar has a role (M. Ashraf Wani)**

..Bar Association has taken many policy decisions including not to defend the cases of those who are accused in the Sex scandal, though every accused is presumed to be innocent till otherwise is proved & has a right to engage the services of a lawyer of his/her choice. Bar Association is morally and legally justified in doing so as the Bar Association is the complainant in the case and its members cannot be the defendants. Secondly, the Bar Association declined to participate in the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the J&K High Court. It has remained firm on the issue of non-participation in any Govt. function directly or indirectly. However, there are divergent opinions on both of the aforementioned issues..

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2006

**5 militants, soldier killed in Machhil gunbattle**

Srinagar, Aug 16: While at least five infiltrating militants and a soldier have died in a fierce gunbattle on the LoC in Machhil sector of Kupwara, troops have apprehended eight young boys, who were leaving for a militant training camp in PoK, from Kangan area and returned them all to their parents..According to Defence sources, nearly 100 infiltrating militants have been killed by security forces around LoC in Kupwara and Baramulla districts this year. Over 300 militants are believed to have successfully reached the hinterland though a number of them were later eliminated in gunbattles by Police and security forces..

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2006

**UN a failed institution: Mirwaiz**

Srinagar, Aug 16: Terming the United Nations as failed institution, chairman of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today said new ways and means have to be found for resolution of Kashmir issue..Mirwaiz said his amalgam

was in favour of dialogue process for resolution of Kashmir issue but Hurriyat will not hold talks under Indian hegemony and its Constitution..

Greater Kashmir, 17 August 2006

**Mirwaiz urges Hizb to enter dialogue process (Naseer A Ganai)**

..Mirwaiz advocated that Hizbul Mujahideen should enter into dialogue process if asked by the government of India and thus deprive India from any excuse that it has nobody to talk to. He said Hurriyat believes that United Jihad Council (UJC) should be made part of dialogue process. Mirwaiz said Hizbul Mujahideen should go for talks if it is invited, even unconditionally, and deprive India from any excuse that they are not ready for dialogue process..

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2006

**Editorial: Delayed Justice**

It will never be too late to address the critical question of clearing backlog of cases in courts. For the growing population of legal fraternity in the State it is important to know the dimensions of challenge on hand...The pendency position in Jammu and Kashmir was 131944 up to December 31, 2004 (48132 civil plus 83812 criminal) at the lower rungs. However, the relevant information about the State High Court is comparatively new. As many as 41973 cases were pending at this level before the beginning of 2006. There was an accumulation of 39529 civil and 2444 criminal disputes. At the national level the High courts have to clear 3629787 issues of which 2947128 are civil..The factors that have been identified for the malady are many and varied. These include population and litigation explosion, granting of unnecessary adjournments, lack of priority of disposal of old cases..

Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2006

**Musharraf for joint management of Kashmir**

New Delhi, Aug 17: Endorsing Prime Minister Manmohan Singhs suggestion to institutionalise arrangements to bring people from both sides of divided Kashmir closer, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said this needs to be discussed as it could be a starter for the joint management of the undivided State. Musharraf noted that none of us is in favour of their (Kashmiris) independence and suggested that a joint framework for self-governance of both parts of Kashmir should be worked out as part of solution to the problem..

Indian Express, 18 August 2006

**Sex scandal: Bail on health ground for accused (Riyaz Wani)**

Srinagar, August17: A local court today granted interim bail on health ground to senior IAS officer Iqbal Khandey, an accused in the Kashmir sex scandal. Khandey, arrested by the CBI on June 29, is the first out of the 18 arrested to be granted bail by the court citing gravity of the disease afflicting him as the major reason behind the decision..

The Tribune, 18 August 2006

**Hurriyat factions turn down offer on talks Third roundtable conference**

Jammu, August 17: The two factions of the Hurriyat Conference, one headed by Molvi

Umar Farooq and the other by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, have turned down yet another offer from the Chief Minister, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, appealing the Kashmiri separatists to participate in the third roundtable conference to be held shortly..

The Hindu, 18 August 2006

**I head entire Kashmir: Attique Khan (Nirupama Subramanian)**

Islamabad: Prime Minister of Pakistan occupied Kashmir Attique Khan says he is the Prime Minister of the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Dawn reported on Thursday. Mr. Khan, who took charge after the recent elections, said that though he exercised his authority only in one part of the State, he was the Prime Minister of aar paar (this side and that)..He expressed support for the cross Line of Control trade, and said people should be able to move freely between the two sides of divided Kashmir..Mr. Khan said any attempt to bypass Kashmiris would fail. They were not a herd of sheep that could be divided between one or another political party..

Greater Kashmir, 18 August 2006

**Self-rule meaningless without troop withdrawal: Hizb**

Srinagar, Aug 17: Ruling out presence of Al-Qaida and foreign militants in Jammu and Kashmir, the Hizbul Mujahideen Supreme Commander Syed Salahudin today described right to self-determination as complete solution to Kashmir dispute and said self-rule could help in leading towards the complete solution. However, he described self-rule as governance of Kashmiris, which could be attained only after withdrawal of Indian and Pakistan troops from both the parts of Kashmir..

Daily Excelsior, 19 August 2006

**Working Group for more travel points, trade across LoC**

Srinagar, Aug 18: The Prime Ministers Working Group on strengthening relations across the Line of Control will look into the possibility of easing formalities for cross-LoC travel. The Governments at the Centre and in the State do not have any problems on increasing the number of people crossing the LoC, Group-II Chairman, M K Rasgotra told reporters here after a meeting to discuss ways and means of improving relations with people in PoK.The Group will look into the easing of formalities for cross-LoC travel, he said adding we will discuss measures that will help in improving relations between people across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir..

Indian Express, 19 August 2006

**SC puts brakes on HC order**

New Delhi, August 18: The Supreme Court has put the brakes on indiscriminate arrests in the Srinagar sex scandal with a partial stay on the Jammu & Kashmir High Court order directing CBI to conduct custodial interrogation of all public functionaries named by kingpin Sabeena during investigation. Realising the sensitivity of the case, in which the agency has been asked by the high court in its August 11 order to arrest all persons even without proper verification of the statements against them, a bench headed by Chief Justice Y K Sabharwal stayed the directive which gave investigating officers the liberty to arrest persons without the instruction of his superiors..

Kashmir Times, 19 August 2006

**Despite official pronouncements Human rights in Valley worsen**

..When the prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited Kashmir to chair the round table conference in May this year in Srinagar, he said there will be zero tolerance about HR violations. But it is alleged that instead of a decline in HR violations, the graph of civilian killings has gone up. The recurrent grenade blasts mostly in Srinagar consumed numerous civilian lives particularly the visiting tourists. But the attacks are still shrouded in mystery as all the militant organizations including their umbrella organization United Jihad Council (UJC) strongly condemned the attacks blaming security and intelligence agencies saying they are trying to defame Kashmir's freedom movement..

Kashmir Times, 19 August 2006

**Editorial: Message of peace**

Happily, there have been some positive developments which can push forward the ongoing peace process, leading to a sustainable settlement of the Kashmir problem, if all sides move with desired sincerity and mutual trust. With hawks having their way, the process set in motion after President Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed the joint statement on September 24, 2004 in New York with both sides agreeing to carry forward the composite dialogue process, is facing rough weather. After some initial achievements, particularly ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and a few Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) the peace process is hit by many a roadblocks and has virtually come to a halt, with ominous prospects of getting derailed..

Greater Kashmir, 19 August 2006

**Sexual abuse of Handwara girls: Protesters demand stringent action (Shabir Ibn Yousuf)**

Handwara, Aug 18: Hundreds of people Friday demonstrated against the state government and the persons accused of involvement in Handwara sex abuse scandal. The protesters said they would intensify protests if other persons involved in the scandal are not arrested and punished..

Kashmir Times, 20 August 2006

**RTI in JU; implementation far from smooth (Manoj)**

Jammu Aug 19: Passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2004 and implemented throughout the country in 2005, the Right to Information Act is yet to make its presence felt even in the University of Jammu, the institution claiming to be one among the best in the country. The Act though had been introduced in the University of Jammu in 2005 but there is not clear picture about it in the campus which is evident from the fact that JU officials claiming to have received only two applications under this law this year..

Kashmir Times, 20 August 2006

**Editorial: Prosperity Begins At Home (Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal)**

Now the corporators in Jammu and Kashmir have something to rejoice, a cabinet decision confirming that they will get regular salaries making them yet another class of contractual agents of the state. Besides, the salaries of legislators and ministers have been further

hiked. A whopping sum of no less than Rs 4 crores will be now spent annually on maintaining the entire band of Mayors, councillors and corporators elected last year to the municipal bodies within the state. Besides, the hike in salaries of legislators will cost the state exchequer Rs 3 crores more annually..

The Hindu, 20 August 2006

**PDP wants more people-to-people contact (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: The Peoples Democratic Party has advocated new confidence-building measures for strengthening relations across the Line of Control. Senior PDP leader and Minister for Forests, Housing and Urban Development, Tariq Hameed Qarrah, who represented the party at a meeting of the Prime Ministers Working Group on strengthening relations across the LoC, told mediapersons at the conclusion of the meeting that the PDP suggested visits by the legislators and other peoples representatives from both parts of Jammu and Kashmir to promote free exchange of views..

The Hindu, 20 August 2006

**JD (U) functionary among nine held in Handwara sex scandal (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar : While the Jammu and Kashmir police arrested nine persons, including a district president of the Janata Dal (United) in another sex scandal in Handwara town of north Kashmir, the Dukhataran-e-Millat on Saturday asked the Kashmir Bar Association to withdraw from the earlier case in view of the CBI approaching the Supreme Court in the matter. With dust over the infamous Srinagar sex scandal yet to settle, the Handwara police unearthed a similar net involving JD(U) functionaries..

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2006

**Dialogue only route to solve all complex problems: CM**

Bhadarwah, Aug 20: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that three out of five working groups announced by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during 2nd Round Table Conference at Srinagar have met and the remaining two groups are also meeting very soon. After completion of first Round of meetings at Srinagar, these groups would hold the 2nd round at Jammu and the third at New Delhi, he added. Interacting with media at Bhadarwah today, Mr Azad said that the groups are expected to put forth their recommendations within six months to the Central Government for consideration and initiating measures thereof..

Indian express, 21 August 2006

**Al-Qaeda has no role in Kashmir: Hizb Chief (Majid Jahangir & Bashaarat Masood)**

Srinagar, August 20: Hizbul Mujahideen chief commander Syed Salahuddin favours self-rule to resolve the Kashmir dispute, but says it wouldnt be possible without complete demilitarisation. In an exclusive telephone interview with Express from Muzaffarabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Salahuddin, one of Indias most wanted Kashmiri militants explained that demilitarisation means, as President Musharraf puts it, both Pakistan and India call back their forces from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir..

Kashmir Times, 21 August 2006

**Economic dividends can lead to political dividends: Mehbooba**

Gool, Aug 20: Maintaining that a political solution of the Kashmir problem is imperative for sustainable peace and prosperity in the sub-continent, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has said that equally important are the economic dimensions of the issue and economic dividends could lead to political dividends. The party has called for opening up of the states economy with free and easy access of its goods and commodities in the region to accelerate the pace of economic integration not only between two parts of Jammu & Kashmir but with all the neighboring countries in South and Central Asia..

Daily excelsior, 21 August 2006

**Editorial: Great illusion**

About two years ago outgoing Azad Kashmir (the occupied territory across the Line of Control) President Sardar Mohammad Anwar Khan had put up quite a show in front of a group of journalists from this part of the State. Indeed, it was very amusing. He kept on describing himself as the only Sadar-e-Riyasat of the united Jammu and Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control. Of course, he did not agree that the institution had ceased to exist with its sole occupant Dr Karan Singh opting out in favour of electoral politics..

Greater Kashmir, 21 August 2006

**Handwara police after No. 2 in sex abuse case (Shabir Ibn Yousuf)**

Handwara, Aug 20: Handwara police Sunday deputed special teams to arrest Mir Khursheed, a lawyer and defeated candidate of Janata Dal, said to be the number two in the list of persons accused of involvement in sex abuse of girls in Handwara and other parts of the Valley, a top police officer said. Besides pushing girls, mostly minors, into flesh trade, Mir is accused of duping people by promising them jobs in different government departments after collecting money from them..

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2006

**Farooq to take up issue of Ahmadi replacement with PM**

Srinagar, Aug 21: Former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said he would take up with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the issue of replacement of Justice A M Ahmadi from the working group on Centre-State relations, saying the move had cast doubts over the credibility of the group itself. To maintain the sanctity of the working group, I will bring to the notice of the Prime Minister the issue of removal of Justice Ahmadi as Manmohan Singh had himself approved his appointment as head of the group on Centre-State relations, the National Conference patron said in a statement issued here..Abdullah said the Kashmir issue can be resolved only through a dialogue process between India and Pakistan that also includes representatives of the people of the State..

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2006

**Editorial: Bereft of novelty**

There are no prizes for deciphering all that Hizbul Mujahideen supremo Syed Salahuddin has said in his latest interview. He has sought demilitarisation on this side of the Line of Control. For his part he has made cease-fire conditional to New Delhi accepting Kashmir as a disputed are. He wants the restoration of pre-1990 position of troops deployment in

the State, release of all prisoners, stoppage of military operations and a commitment by India before the international community that there would be tripartite talks. Only after these steps are taken his organisation would agree to stop fire..

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2006

**PM tells J-K youth to united for progress**

New Delhi: Observing that even after 59 years of Independence several tasks still remained to be accomplished, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday asked the youth to work unitedly for the nations overall progress. Interacting with a group of youths from Jammu and Kashmir at his residence, Singh advocated that exchange of views among people from different states would ensure strengthening of the countrys unity and speed up all-round development..The PM told the group, which will travel across the country, that they should enlighten the people with the problems faced by them in J-K and at the same time take the opportunity to understand the problems faced by other states..

Kashmir Times, 22 August 2006

**Editorial: Patronage for SPOs**

That the Centre has been quick in not only assuring hike in salaries of Special Police Officers (SPOs) but also in releasing funds for the same may not necessarily be translated as New Delhis sensitivity towards the growing stagnation of service class in Jammu and Kashmir. If sensibility is the logic, then perhaps the other low paid employees of the state would have been benefitted first, the long pending cases of daily wagers would have been regularized and more than that, perhaps the teachers, especially those recruited under the rehbar-e-taleem scheme, would have been on the priority list..

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2006

**Top Pakistani militant arrested in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Aug 22: The Army today claimed to have achieved a major breakthrough in the Mumbai serial blast case by arresting a top Pakistani militant from South Kashmir early this morning. A Defence spokesperson said troops of 3 para (SF) noticed a person moving in suspicious manner in Nandmarg forest near Shopian in Kulgam area of South Kashmir at about 0330 hrs. He was asked to surrender and later arrested by the troops. On sustained interrogation, the spokesperson said the person revealed his identity, as Tohfeen Akmal Hashmi alias Abu Ahmad, a Pakistani militant. The spokesperson said Hashmi was the divisional commander of Al-Badr militant outfit in Jammu and Udhampur areas. He said Hashmi admitted to knowing the perpetrators of July 11 Mumbai serial blasts in which about 200 people were killed and about 800 injured..

The Hindu, 23 August 2006

**Farooq favours dialogue with Hizb (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah has advocated a dialogue over the Kashmir issue with the largest indigenous armed outfit, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, led by Syed Salahuddin at a neutral venue other than India and Pakistan. In an interview with a Jammu-based news channel, Dr. Abdullah said both India and Pakistan need to strengthen their bilateral relations and New

Delhi should hold talks with Hizb at a neutral venue, maintaining the highest degree of confidentiality..

Kashmir Times, 23 August 2006

**Editorial: Goons in Khaki**

The brutal torture of a class 12th students at the hands of a cop in Doda is a horrifying incident, bringing to surface the bitter fact of law-keepers abusing their position and perpetrating terror among the common masses. Not only was the boy picked up, illegally detained and tortured but when villagers went to rescue him, they were also threatened, revealing how some black sheep within the police force misuse their powers and resort to human rights violations instead of safeguarding them. The case is not an isolated example of its kind but complaints have reached the higher up police officials in Doda that this has almost become the norm..

TheTribune, 23 August 2006

**APHC for discussion on Musharrafs idea of self-governance**

Jammu, August 22: The All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership is in favour of initiating a discussion on Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharrafs idea of self-governance, demilitarisation and joint management. The leadership does not want India to reject the idea because it has emanated from the Pakistan establishment. According to a senior APHC leader, Prof Abdul Gani Bhat, detailed debate on self-governance, demilitarisation and joint management to be followed by sincere implementation would lead to the final settlement of the Kashmir issue..

Kashmir Times, 23 August 2006

**Youth killing triggers protest in Bholderwah**

Bhadarwah, August 22: Barely few hours after Chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azads utterances during a press conference here about emphasizing the Prime Minister's zero tolerance for human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir state, a joint party of 4 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and local STF gunned down a youth at Pranu about 21 kilometers from here last night. This triggered massive resentment and blockade of traffic on Bhadarwah - Doda road besides triggering violent protests in the area against the killing of innocent youth by the security personnel and cops..

Greater Kashmir, 23 August 2006

**Editorial: Respond now**

Hizb Chief Syed Salahuddins offer to cease hostilities against Indian forces follows the significant victory of Hezbollah, which has questioned the very invincibility of Israel. Surprisingly the offer still awaits a response from New Delhi. It was, perhaps, for the first time ever since the armed uprising broke out that the top militant leadership admitted the fact that a bullet fired either from a militants gun or a cops rifle afflicts a Kashmiri. At a time when Hizbullahs apparent victory in Lebanon has emboldened the non-state actors across Muslim lands, voices of reconciliation from the longest surviving militant outfit in Kashmir require the befitting response..

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2006

**16 killed, 22 injured in Darhal bus accident**

Rajouri/Jammu August 23: Sixteen persons including three women, a JE and a police constable were killed and 22 others were injured when a semi video coach bus rolled down about 200 feet into a gorge after front wheels of the bus got separated from the vehicle at Danna Top near revered Sain Ganji Shah Ziarat on Darhal-Rajouri road this morning. This was second major bus mishap nearly at the same spot.. Frequent accidents on the road led to spontaneous protests from the people, who blocked road along with dead bodies of the victims. It was only after Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad air dashed to the spot and released funds for Rajouri-Darhal road (Rs 1 crore), new District Hospital (Rs 12 crore) besides compensation from his relief fund and Red Cross for the victims that the people called off their protests..

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2006

**Women take to guns to fight militancy**

Poonch 23: A 38-year-old woman, whose son was kidnapped by militants, has resolved to fight militancy and is giving a new dimension to counter-militancy operations as a member of Village Defence Committee (VDC) in the mountainous areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Security officials revealed that many women are now joining the VDC and are learning the art of self-defence to fight anti-social elements. Women in hilly and rural zones of the cold Pir Panjal mountains are increasingly enlisting themselves in VDC cadres and getting trained in the use of weapons, an official said..

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2006

**Editorial: Shameful indeed**

It is a matter of deep regret and shame that close on the heels of the Srinagar sex scandal another instance of exploitation of women has come to light in the State. The latest undesirable incident is spread over north of Kashmir and Rajouri district in this region. Girls have been lured in the name of jobs and then subjected to rape and intimidation. Such disclosure will make every sane persons stomach turn.. There is no way that the State can even pretend these days that it is a safe haven for fair sex. Evidently the women have come under tremendous pressure in the present milieu. They are required to contribute to the family kitty. But there are not enough occupations available to absorb them..

Indian Express, 24 August 2006

**Geelani says unity only after Mirwaiz apology (Muzaffar Raina)**

Srinagar, August 23: Hurriyat hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani today set a precondition for unity with the moderates led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq. Geelani wants Mirwaiz to publicly admit that he was at fault in holding bilateral talks with New Delhi, affirming that unification is not possible without that. Thousands of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat activists, chanting pro-freedom slogans gathered outside Geelanis residence today to commemorate the founding of the party. The Hurriyat hardliner used the occasion to repeat his stand on both Kashmir and unification (with moderate Hurriyat) issues..

Kashmir Times, 24 August 2006

**Editorial: Ill-conceived security measures**

In response to increasing grenade attacks in the Valley, the security forces have come up with several restrictions. The exercise first began with random frisking operations on the roads and even subjecting women to get their personal handbags checked by male cops or soldiers on the streets. The next in this series of steps was cracking down on the mini-buses and reviving the practice common in initial years of militancy, asking all bus drivers to down all their window panes within the city limits..the latest feature in town has been the introduction of barbed wire which imposes not just several restrictions on the movement of people but may also become hazardous for the people..In a civil democratic state, it is the people who should be of paramount importance. But both the exercises of putting up barbed wires on the roads and totally bolting up the buses stems not from ensuring public safety but safety of the security forces on the roads..

The Tribune, 24 August 2006

**Move to provide road connectivity to villages**

Srinagar, August 23: The government is planning to cover all villages and hamlets in Jammu and Kashmir under a project of road connectivity under the Bharat Nirman Programme and other central and state road constructed projects to ensure equal development. This was revealed by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad here yesterday while reviewing and monitoring progress of various mega and mini road construction programme being executed by R&B ministry of the state..

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2006

**No compromise on Indias sovereignty over J&K**

New Delhi, Aug 24: Government today said Pakistan has made several proposals for resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, including its joint management, but made it clear that there can be no compromise on the sovereignty of India over the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Indias unity..Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed said India has conveyed to Pakistan, at the highest level, that the dialogue process between the two countries would be undermined unless Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side..

Indian Express, 25 August 2006

**CBI can prosecute army men: Court (Riyaz Wani)**

Srinagar, August 24 :A local court here today dismissed the army's petition that the CBI had no jurisdiction to prosecute the five senior army officials involved in the killing of five innocent Kashmiris in the infamous Pathribal case. However, the court has again sought the army's opinion on whether they would like to go for a criminal trial of the accused or prefer a court martial for them. The army has to make its choice by September 15, when the case will come up for hearing..

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2006

**Editorial: Threat remains**

It is unfortunate that there is no encouraging news yet for New Delhi from across the Line of Control. Terrorist camps in Muzaffarabad and elsewhere in Azad Kashmir, as the occupied territory is locally known, have not yet been dismantled. These continue to exist in Pakistans border areas adjoining Afghanistan as well. Responsible sections of the Pakistani media meaning well by their country have expressed concern over such state of affairs. We in this State and country have our own reasons to worry on this count..

Kashmir Times, 25 August 2006

**Editorial: Not by accident alone**

Yet another accident and yet another headline, decades of criminal negligence by everyone who matter have reduced chilling gruesome accidents on the highways of Jammu and Kashmir to just another statistic. Hundreds of Crores of Rupees have disappeared in upgrading the roads and improving the network but the number of accidents have only increased. Not a fortnight passes when a vehicle does not roll down the road either into a gorge or into a river claiming precious lives and leaving behind traumatized families..

Greater Kashmir, 25 August 2006

**Internal autonomy only way out: NC**

Srinagar, Aug 24: National Conference senior leader and MLA Pattan, Dr Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said the restoration of internal autonomy was the only way out for resolving Kashmir dispute. Dr Kamal was addressing public meetings at Hamray, Takya Tapper, Palapora and other places during his tour to the constituency. He alleged that some elements, through their disinformation campaign against NC, were all set to malign its image..

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2006

**KK among two top HM ultras killed in Doda**

Jammu, Aug 24: Security forces and police gunned down two top militants of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit including an area commander belonging to the minority community at Kalihand, about 18 kms from Doda in early hours of this morning. This is for the first time that a minority community militant has been killed in the region though a couple of them had been arrested earlier..Another militant, a section commander of Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) surrendered before security forces in Kishtwar today while 14 persons including eight civilians and six CRPF personnel were injured in a grenade blast at Seri Bazar in Bhadarwah tehsil of Doda in the night..They have been identified as Kuldeep Kumar alias K K Sharma alias Kamran alias Waqar, 27, son of Neel Kanth R/o Zihand, Doda, an 'area commander' of Hizbul Mujahideen and Abdul Latief alias Khalid Kashmiri, a resident of Srinagar..

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2006

**Hurriyat favours resumption of talks**

Srinagar, Aug 25: The Hurriyat Conference today urged the Centre to take serious steps to resume talks with Pakistan and the separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir to resolve

the Kashmir issue. Government should, without wasting further time, make serious efforts to resume talks with Pakistan and the separatist leaders for resolution of Kashmir issue, moderate Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said addressing a Friday congregation at Khankhah-e-Faiz Panah at Tral, 40 kms from here..Calling for unity among the separatists, he said all small and big issues could be resolved unitedly but unfortunately Muslims have forgotten teachings of Islam and the prophet and were involved in civil war..

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2006

**Editorial: Spare a thought**

Women and children continue to be two vulnerable sections of society. This stark reality hardly bears any reiteration. Time and again the Supreme Court, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) have intervened to correct anomalies existing in the present social dispensation. Figures about Jammu and Kashmir tell their own shocking tale. On an average more than four women in the State are subjected to indignity every day. According to the National Crime Records Bureau of the Union Home Ministry, 211 cases of rape, 830 of molestation and 371 of sexual harassment were registered in J&K during 2005..

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2006

**Bar calls off strike**

Jammu, Aug 25: The Jammu Bar Association today called off its 59 days long strike but it decided to resume work from Tuesday as the infamous Srinagar sex scandal case has been listed for hearing in the Supreme Court on Monday. A decision to call off about two months long agitation was taken in general house meeting of the Bar Association which was attended by majority of the members..

Kashmir Times, 26 August 2006

**Tourists disappearing act has traders worried (Athar Parvez)**

Srinagar, Aug 25: As this years tourism season in the valley is about to draw to a close, people associated with tourism sector, the most biggest contributor to the Kashmir economy, are desperate to see the season ending on a positive and optimistic note..The abrupt change in the security scenario in June-July this year, wherein a number of tourists were killed and injured in separate incidents of grenade attacks, scared away the tourists from valley. The state government had announced that it was going to receive about a million tourists in the valley this year..

Greater Kashmir, 26 August 2006

**Editorial: Too callous**

Majority of the governments that ruled the state by and large have exploited the political uncertainty in the state to their advantage - it is not only that building no infra-structure or setting up no industries that could have put the state on a firm economic pedestal has been their policy but even denying basic facilities like health care, sanitation, roads and education to the people has also been their cardinal creed. The bumpy and dusty roads, stinking and clogged drains, filthy and suffocating lanes, dingy bare class rooms, funky hospital wards, unhygienic surgical ward, vanishing water bodies, starkly naked forests

all bear testimony that the all the governments whether in the past or at present have not been pursuing pro-people policies but running a pro-Self Raj..

Daily Excelsior, 26 August 2006

#### **4 top LeT, HUJI ultras killed in Doda, Poonch**

Jammu, Aug 25: Security forces and police today gunned down four top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) militants in four separate encounters in Doda and Poonch districts while police recovered four wireless sets and a large quantity of ammunition and destroyed a hide-out of the militants in Snehi forests in Surankote. A woman, who was an employee of BDO office Bhadarwah in Doda district, was shot dead by the militants in her house last night..

Daily Excelsior, 27 August 2006

#### **J&Ks spl status diluted: PDP**

Srinagar, Aug 26: The special status conferred to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution has been diluted over a period of time by successive Governments at the Centre, a senior PDP leader claimed today. Despite the guarantees enshrined in the Article and reaffirmed by then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru the successive regimes in Delhi, unfortunately, did not stand by those guarantees resulting in the steady erosion of the States special status, Minister for Forests in the coalition Government headed by Congress Tariq Hameed Qarra said..

Daily Excelsior, 27 August 2006

#### **Main accused in Handwara sex scam arrested**

Baramulla, Aug 26: One of the three main accused in Handwara sex scandal is being subjected to Lie Detection Test at Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) of J&K Police on Monday even as three of the female victims identified his flat in Estates Departments Chhanapora Colony in presence of a Magistrate. Meanwhile, another main accused Mir Khursheed of Baramulla was arrested today by Handwara Police and a manhunt is underway in search of two accused, both residents of Rajouri..

Daily Excelsior, 27 August 2006

#### **Azad justifies creation of 4 new districts in Valley**

Jammu, Aug 26: Stoutly defending decision of his Government to create four new districts in Kashmir valley, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today asserted that he didnt succumb to any pressure from any quarter while implementing Wazir commission recommendations. He disclosed that different political groups of Kashmir were demanding only two districts but the Government gave them four..

The Tribune, 27 August 2006

#### **Hurriyat does not represent entire J&K: PoK website**

Jammu, August 26: The Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) government has put on its official website a report indicating that the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat Conference was Kashmir-centric and did not represent the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. The report released by the Kashmir Liberation Cell of the PoK government says that though the visit of the Hurriyat Conference delegation led by Umar Farooq was

termed as the biggest turnaround in confidence-building measures for Kashmir, but their tour has given an impression that their politics remain centered around the concerns of the valley. This renders Hurriyats claim of representing the entire state and the subjects of Jammu and Kashmir debatable..

Indian Express, 27 August 2006

**Atal, Advani forced me to free Maulana Masood Azhar: Farooq Abdullah**

New Delhi, August 27: In a stinging attack on Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani over the 1999 Kandahar hijack episode, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has accused the then Prime Minister and Home Minister of compelling him to release Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Maulana Masood Azhar for which the world will pay the price..He said the Central pressure on him to release terrorists in view of the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar in December 1999 was similar to the one he underwent exactly 10 years back after the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed..

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2006

**Azad, Farooq share stage with Yasin, Mirwaiz**

Srinagar, Aug 27: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and the National Conference supremo Dr Farooq Abdullah today shared stage with JKLF Chairman Yasin Malik and Chairman of the separatist Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on occasion of the golden jubilee celebrations of the vernacular daily Aftaab at SKICC. Even as some mainstream and separatist leaders have met one another on certain public occasions in the past, it was for the first time that Jammu & Kashmir's topmost mainstream leaders, Azad and Farooq, joined the topmost separatist leaders, Yasin and Mirwaiz, at an intellectual congregation..

The Times of India, 28 August 2006

**7/11 probe: Two Lashkar activists held in J&K**

Srinagar/Mumbai: The anti-terrorism squad (ATS) on Saturday arrested two alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) activists from the Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, who may be involved in the 7/11 Mumbai blasts. The arrests have given a ray of hope to the Mumbai police. With this, the number of people arrested in connection with the blasts have gone up to 21. The two suspects have been identified as Ghulam Mohammed of Kupwara and Abdul Rashid of Handwara of Jammu and Kashmir district..

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2006

**J&K enjoys highest degree of self-rule: Governor**

Srinagar, Aug 27: Saying that the concept of autonomy of a State is in no way a threat to national unity, Governor Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha today asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is enjoying highest degree of self rule in the country. In his valedictory address at the conclusion of conference on Indian Federalism at Work organised by Institute of Social Sciences here this evening, he said. There is much talk of introducing self rule in Kashmir these days without defining its contours. To me, democracy and self rule are synonymous. The Governor elaborated that Indian democracy is recognised the world over as most vibrant democracy in the third world..

Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2006

**Editorial: No half way**

It cant be anybodys case that Mirwaiz Moulvi Umar Farooq and his colleagues in the moderate Hurriyat Conference should not be talking about peace process between India and Pakistan. In fact, they have every reason to do so. They have after all been enthusiastic participants in discussions with leaders of the two countries. They have gone ahead with exercise in the face of serious threats and virulent propaganda. Hizbul Mujahideen and the rival Hurriyat faction headed by hard-liner Syed Ali Shah Geelani have been unsparing in their criticism of the Mirwaiz, Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat, Moulvi Abbas Ansari and Mr Bilal Ghani Lone, among others. The thrust of their attack is that these leaders have travelled to New Delhi or Islamabad motivated by the desire to grab power..

Daily Excelsior, 29 August 2006

**SC takes serious note of J&K HC order on sex scandal, pulls up Bar**

New Delhi, Aug 28 : The Supreme Court, which had put brakes on indiscriminate arrests in the Srinagar sex scandal, today took serious note of the Jammu Kashmir High Court order in this regard and pulled up a lawyers body for its reported resolution that none of its members will defend the accused..The court also issued notices to the CBI and the State Government on the petition filed by 13 accused seeking shifting of the trial of the case outside the State. It posted the matter for further hearing after three weeks asking the agency and State Government to file replies..

Daily Excelsior, 29 August 2006

**4 top ultras nabbed**

Jammu, Aug 28: Police tonight apprehended four top militants including a co-ordinator of Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits and recovered a large quantity of explosive devices, arms and SIM cards from their possession in Rajouri town. The militants plot to strike at DC Colony also known as Bela Colony and Suicide Colony, housing top brass of police and civil administration, in the next few days has been foiled with the arrests. Of four arrested militants, two were former students, official sources told the Excelsior..

Kashmir Times, 29 August 2006

**Right of self determination only way: Hurriyat (G)**

Srinagar, Aug 28: The Geelani faction of Hurriyat Conference has said that it still holds the stand that the durable solution of Kashmir issue lies in the fact that Kashmiris should be given the right of self-determination for which the UN resolutions is a strong foundation. A spokesman of Geelani faction of Hurriyat said that it was agreed upon by all the constituent groups of the faction during a two-day meeting in which a number of issues regarding the prevailing political situation of the state were discussed..

Indian Express, 29 August 2006

**No role for Al-Qaeda in J&K: JKLF chief**

Srinagar, August 28: Kashmirs top separatist leader and JKLF chief Yasin Malik today

said Al-Qaeda has nothing to do with Kashmir and their (Al-Qaeda) fight is not our fight while emphasizing the need to build a non-violent and ideological force that is vocal and powerful in its actions. At a press conference here, Malik said: After the Mumbai blasts people were claiming that Al-Qaeda is present in Kashmir. But I say with full authority that Al-Qaeda has neither any agenda nor any role in Kashmir..

Kashmir Times, 29 August 2006

**Editorial: Omissions of a Commission**

In its report, selectively released to pro-establishment media, the one-man commission comprising Justice K.K. Gupta, a retired judge of the J&K High Court, inquiring into the serious allegations of tampering with the icy Shiva lingam at the holy cave of Amarnath by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) headed by none other than the State Governor, Lt. Gen. S.K. Sinha, has not only given a clean chit to the SASB but has also severely indicted those who had raised their voice against such a sacrilege..The Commission makes the Kashmiri pandit priests of Mattan and Ganeshpura as the scapegoats. Instead of bringing out the truth and answering several pertinent questions regarding the acts of omission and commission of the SASB the Gupta Commission acts as its operation cover-up and a rubber stamp, thus raising doubts even about its own conduct..

Daily excelsior, 29 August 2006

**Meet with Musharraf not ruled out: PM**

..In New Delhi, asking the international community not to resort to any segmentation in the war against terror, India today said there was close alignment between terrorist group Al Qaeda and Pakistan-based Jehadi outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir and the scourge has to be fought comprehensively in whatever form it emerged. New Delhi said while it sought good relations with Pakistan, the vision of a flourishing South Asia could not be realised under the shadow of terror..

The Hindu, 30 August 2006

**From bullets to ballots in Kashmir? (Praveen Swami)**

Is the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen contemplating turning to politics? If he takes the peace road, Syed Salahuddin could face opposition from within his own organisation too. Mohammad Yusuf Shas family could well have been invented as characters for a propaganda film on the opportunities six decades in the Republic of India have opened up for Jammu and Kashmirs rural elites. Shahs oldest son, 35 year old Shahid Yusuf, works as a teacher, while 30 year old Javed Yusuf is an agricultural technologist.. A picture-perfect life? Not quite. Shahs home is in Rawalpindi, not Srinagar, and using the nom de guerre Syed Salahuddin, he commands the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the numerically strongest terrorist group in Jammu and Kashmir..

Indian Express, 30 August 2006

**Edit: No defence**

The Kashmir Bar Associations move to disallow members from defending sex scam accused is absurd. As the newspaper that broke the Srinagar sex abuse scandal, let us state for the record that we will defend, in the strongest possible terms, the right of those

accused in this case to a fair trial. The resolution passed by the Kashmir Bar Association disallowing its members from defending those arrested in this case goes against the very grain of modern jurisprudence. The Indian Constitution is after all only upholding a universal principle when it states in Article 22 (i) that no person who is arrested... shall be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice. The right to defend oneself is non-negotiable and the Supreme Court was wholly in the right to upbraid the concerned bar association for being a law unto itself..

Daily Excelsior, 30 August 2006

### **Salahuddin locks horns with Geelani**

New Delhi, Aug 29: Hardline Hurriyat Conference led by firebrand Jamaat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani has entered into a war of words with Hizbul Mujahideen Chief Syed Salahuddin who has accused Geelani of propagating only self interest rather than unity of the separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir. The verbal war between the two broke out after Geelani nominated his close aide Ghulam Nabi Sofi as the leader of the Hurriyat in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) replacing Abdullah Malik, sources in the hardline amalgam said..

Graeter Kashmir, 30 August 2006

### **Sexploiters remand extended**

Handwara, Aug 29: A court in Handwara on Tuesday extended the remand of the sex abuse scandal accused, including a scribe to September 1. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Handwara, Kousar Ahmad extended the remand of the accused after request of police. Police produced the accused Raja Mohi-ud-Din Bhat (the scribe), Ghulam Nabi Parray, Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, Ajaz Ahmad Lone and Mehboob Geelani in the court where hundreds of people had assembled..

Kashmir Times, 30 August 2006

### **The headless commissions of Jammu and Kashmir, govt bites time (Shuchismita)**

Jammu, Aug 28: State Commission for Women, State Human Rights Commission and State Accountability Commission- these three headless commissions themselves portend well the deplorably slapdash attitude of the state government towards women, human rights and accountability. Ironically, the latter two expressions have so far been projected as the premise of this coalition government. These three commissions are headless, is not the only common point they share, the chairpersons of these commissions were forced to make an unceremonious exit by the coalition government, is yet another meeting point for these so called autonomous institutions..

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2006

### **Mobile bombs seized, 4 arrested**

Srinagar, Aug 30: Police today claimed to have unearthed militants plans to use mobile phone for detonating Improvised Explosive Devices to target security forces. Director General of Police Gopal Sharma said two such devices, which can trigger IED explosions using mobile phones, were recovered by police while investigating the recent upsurge in militancy related violence in the Valley.. The DGP said the arrest of some militants led to a Hizb hideout from where police seized a huge cache of explosive material with

sophisticated mobile phone circuits..

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2006

**Editorial: Al Qaedas presence**

It seems just a coincidence that two important persons in different corners of the country have discussed on the same day Al Qaedas possible links with Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran sees a connection between Osama bin Ladens dreaded network and Pakistan based jihadi outfits operating in the State. Talking to a group of diplomatic correspondents in New Delhi he has stated: They may not be Al Qaeda but certainly they seemed to be functioning very closely aligned with Al Qaeda. Few will disagree with him that their activities are similar. There is also merit in his argument that distinguishing one terror group from the other will not be correct..

The Hindu, 31 August 2006

**Opinion: Azad ready for talks with Hizb, not Lashkar (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad says it will take a lot of time to rescue Jammu and Kashmir from the vested interests that have become entrenched. Excerpts from an interview Q. Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin recently said that his outfit was ready for ceasefire with some conditions. How would you react? A. It is a welcome development. We are ready but the only condition is that they should abjure violence. The two things [talks and violence] cannot go together. Q. Are you ready for talks with the LeT as well? A. The question does not arise. Why should we talk with foreigners? Somebody coming from Afghanistan and Sudan and asking us to talk. How is it possible? The Hizb is a Kashmiri organisation, and I hope they are realising that it is the people of Kashmir who are suffering..

Kashmir Times, 31 August 2006

**Editorial: Ministry expansion will only drain state exchequer**

..Bringing in more flab to the already oversized ministry cannot be justified every time on the pretext of either giving representation to different parties or factions within his own party, or even on the simple plea of giving space to various regions and ethnic communities of the state. A cabinets purpose is to aide in the governance of the state, not to become a bone of contention for power politics or keeping the flock together. Unfortunately, this is what the purpose of inducting ministers has been reduced to and Azad, despite his initial promise to stick to ethics of choosing his ministers, has fallen prey to the same mechanisms of Kissa Kursi Ka..

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2006

**NC for early resolution of Kashmir**

Srinagar, Aug 30: Favouring early resolution of Kashmir issue, opposition National Conference today appealed to the Centre and Pakistan to address the long standing problem without delay to relieve the people of Jammu and Kashmir from sufferings. Key to everlasting peace in the subcontinent lies in resolution of Kashmir issue. It is not right to delay its solution as gun and explosives have wrecked havoc with the lives of the people of the State, NC general secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmad said addressing a meeting in Pulwama district..