

Daily Excelsior, 1 December 2007

Nearly 80 buildings vacated by CRPF in Kashmir: DG

Troops of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have vacated nearly 80 buildings, including schools and hospitals, in the Kashmir valley, the Chief of the Central paramilitary force today said. "The relocation of troops from school and hospital buildings is going on in a phase-wise manner," CRPF Director General S I S Ahmad told reporters here. "So far nearly 80 buildings have been vacated by our troops in the Valley and handed back to the respective Departments," he said. He said as soon as the CRPF is provided alternate accommodation, its men move out of the buildings currently under its occupation.

Greater Kashmir, 1 December 2007

K-conference ends on self-determination note

The two-day Kashmir conference titled Sixty years of the Kashmir dispute a way forward, held in the House of Commons, London on November 28, 29 adopted a seven-point resolution stating that right to self-determination was the inalienable and non-negotiable right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution demanding demilitarization of entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, facilitating travel of Kashmir leaders, allowing expatriate Kashmiris to visit their homeland, holding of all inclusive dialogue on Kashmir, release of all detainees and repeal of all draconian laws in vogue in the state was adopted in the plenary session chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan.

Greater Kashmir, 1 December 2007

Militancy related incidents on decline, says CRPF boss

The Director General of paramilitary CRPF, S I S Ahmed said Friday that militancy-related incidents have gone down in the Kashmir Valley during the current year. He also announced five new battalions of CRPF would be deployed in the Valley next year, replacing BSF. Addressing a news conference here, he said the level of violence has definitely gone down in the Valley during this year. Security forces including CRPF, BSF and others are working as an integrated team. He said another five battalions of CRPF would be deployed by June 2008 in the Valley replacing five battalion of BSF. There are 72 battalions of CRPF in the state out of which 58 are deployed in Kashmir and 14 in Jammu, Ahmed said.

Greater Kashmir, 1 December 2007

Not a single case of custodial disappearance so far: Azad

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Friday reiterated that not a single case of custodial disappearance had been reported in the state so far. My government ensured that while militancy was effectively tackled, the general public did not face any inconvenience. The current year had been the best of the last two decades of militancy in terms of lowest ever civilian and security forces casualties. Not a single case of custodial disappearance had been reported so far in the State even as the Fidayeen attacks made during the year showed a declining trend, he said at a function here organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations to commemorate the completion of two years of Azad-led government in office.

Greater Kashmir, 2 December 2007

Close Cultural Wing, it is exploiting our daughters: Asiya Andrabi

Chairperson of Dukhtaran-e-Millat Asiya Andrabi Sunday said they would start agitation seeking the closure of the Cultural Wing of the department of education, which, according to Asiya, is aiding the Indian cultural aggression on Kashmir. We are the fighting against the Indian occupation and its instruments; we have to secure our Islamic culture and fight the occupation, Asiya said at a seminar titled Cultural aggression and how to combat it organized by Dukhtaran-e-Millat here. I have asked Aziz Hajni, the head of Cultural Wing of Education Department to resign from his post, or else we will assume that he is also exploiting our daughters. We will soon start agitation and seek the closure of this Cultural Wing, which has become a ground for exploitation of our daughters, Asiya said.

Greater Kashmir, 2 December 2007

Geelani seeks united fight against cultural aggression

The Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Geelani on Sunday blamed opposition National Conference for abolishing Islamic teachings from academic curriculum in the Valley and urged the student community and the teachers to unite against cultural aggression launched by the state and New Delhi.

Greater Kashmir, 3 December 2007

Youth can be force for peace: Mufti

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Patron and former Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed on Monday said in the emerging scenario in the state of Jammu and Kashmir the youth has to be necessarily singled out as a target group deserving specific attention as young population can be both a threat to peace and a force for peace. Mufti Sayeed was addressing a state level youth convention after unveiling the partys policy document Youth Development Policy. He stressed that the states future political structure must be more inclusive of the youth who can become the key agents for peace and development.

Daily Excelsior, 3 December 2007

Tribunal has no powers to compound major violations: DB

In a LPA filed against the judgement of Single Judge, Division Bench of J&K High Court, comprising Acting Chief Justice Nisar Ahmed Kakru and Justice Virender Singh today observed that Special Tribunal has the power to compound minor violations and not major ones.

Greater Kashmir, 4 December 2007

JK security situation improving

The overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has shown definite improvement during the last few years, while militancy incidents have shown an upward trend in the North- Eastern region during this year upto October 31, the Lok Sabha was informed today.

Greater Kashmir, 4 December 2007

SHRC indicts Army for killing 5 people in 2002

The J&K State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has indicted the Army of killing five innocent people in custody in 2002 and sought reinvestigation of the case by the crime branch for appropriate action against the murderers. Giving his judgment yesterday on a petition filed in 2003, acting SHRC chairperson Habibullah Bhat also ordered a compensation of Rs one lakh each to the family of the victims. Rehmi and others had stated in their petition filed with the SHRC in June 2003 that five people Kamal Naik (60), Abdul Aziz Naik (50), Abdul Rashid Sheikh (45), Muhammad Yousuf Naik (44) and Ali Muhammad Sheikh (18) had left their homes in Banihal on November 10, 2002, for purchasing some household goods.

Greater Kashmir, 4 December 2007

Mehbooba meets PM

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has said deferring the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Groups is not only proving detrimental for the peace efforts but has also started brewing public cynicism. Mufti called on the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh here Monday evening and stressed the need for speeding up the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Groups in the larger interest of peace and reconciliation in the State and the region. She said delaying the implementation of these recommendations has put a question mark over the veracity of the whole exercise.

Greater Kashmir, 4 December 2007

PDP sets conditions for ministry expansion

The much hyped cabinet expansion might run into rough weather as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), a partner in the ruling coalition in the state, wants all the pending problems to be resolved before the expansion. Highly placed sources told Greater Kashmir on Tuesday that PDP wants the Forest portfolio, snatched from Qazi Muhammad Afzal two months ago, back; Muhammad Rafi, an NC rebel who joined PDP, be inducted as Member of Legislative Council (MLC); and PDP be given share in corporations.

Greater Kashmir, 4 December 2007

Killing men by slitting throats un-Islamic: Syed Ali Geelani

Expressing serious concern over the mysterious murders in Valley, the Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani has called upon militant groups to make public the names of all the people against whom they have concrete and irrefutable proof of their involvement in anti-movement activities. ♦??It has become very easy for different agencies to kill civilians under the cover of unknown gunmen/persons. Even personal enmity could lead to murders in such an atmosphere, ♦?? said Geelani before leaving for New Delhi on Tuesday, according to a Hurriyat statement.

Daily Excelsior, 7 December 2007

India rejects Pak proposal of troop reduction in J&K

India today rejected Pakistans proposal of troop reduction in Jammu and Kashmir while Islamabad called for a compromise formula on Sir Creek. The issues came up during the

45-minute bilateral meeting between External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and care-taker Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Inam-ul-Haq, on the sidelines of the 29th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers here today. Sources said the Pakistan Minister told Mr Mukherjee that much progress had been made between the two countries on various issues. However, there had been no progress on "core issues" like Jammu and Kashmir.

Greater Kashmir, 9 December 2007

BAIG BACK AS DY CM, ITS OFFICIAL WILL TAKE OATH TODAY

Senior Peoples Democratic Party leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig would be sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister on Monday morning, the PDP confirmed on Sunday. As reported by Greater Kashmir on Sunday, the PDP had formally recommended Baig's name for the Dy CM's position when Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad called on the PDP patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed at his residence in Jammu on Saturday evening. During the meeting Mufti conveyed Baig's name to the Chief Minister for re-induction as Dy CM. The PDP had recommended that Baig should be given portfolios of Planning, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, and Tourism.

Greater Kashmir, 9 December 2007

Troops treat Kashmiris like animals: Yasin Malik

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik began his two-day hunger strike on the eve of International Human Rights Day on Sunday against growing human rights abuses by the Indian troops in the state. Malik, joined by dozens of his party colleagues, members of the High Court Bar Association, many families of disappeared persons, intellectuals, academicians, and traders gathered in the morning outside the JKLF headquarters at Maisuma here.

Greater Kashmir, 10 December 2007

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY OBSERVED ACROSS STATE

Protests, rallies, signature campaigns, candle-light vigils marked the observance of World Human Rights Day in the state Monday. Political parties, both pro-freedom and pro-India, social organisations, student unions demanded an end to the excesses committed by the men in uniform. Chairman of pro-freedom Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Muhammad Yasin Malik said that if human rights violations continue unabated in Jammu and Kashmir, people would be left with no option but to take up arms again.

Greater Kashmir, 10 December 2007

NC blames Manmohan, Azad-Govt for rights abuses

Leader of the opposition National Conference, Abdul Rahim Rather came down heavily on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and coalition government led by Congress on World Human Rights Day Monday, accusing them of acting as mute spectators to unabated rights abuses by troops in Kashmir. Innocent people are being openly killed by troops and playing fields have been turned into graveyards. Kashmiris are suffering for no fault, Rather told reporters at a news conference here.

Greater Kashmir, 10 December 2007

Track -II talks on

Pakistan's caretaker Foreign Minister Inamul Haq has said the back-channel dialogue between Pakistan and India for the resolution of disputes would continue even after the January 8 elections.

Greater Kashmir, 10 December 2007

Poonch Election Campaign Ends

The by-election campaign for Poonch assembly segment ended this evening and all the star campaigners of political parties including former chief minister and National Conference patron Dr. Farooq Abdullah have returned to the winter capital Jammu.

The Hindu, 11 December 2007

Srinagar-Jammu National Highway closed after heavy snowfall

The 300-km Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was on Tuesday closed for vehicular traffic following heavy snowfall around Jawahar Tunnel -- the gateway to Kashmir. About 18 cm of snow had accumulated on the ground around Jawahar Tunnel rendering the arterial road unsafe, prompting the authorities to suspend the traffic this evening, a spokesman of the traffic control said.

Greater Kashmir, 11 December 2007

Rehmani for implementation of Human Rights laws in Kashmir

Muhammad Farooq Rehmani Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (G) Pak-chapter has called for the need of international human rights laws and other protocols of Geneva Convention on human rights in Jammu and Kashmir to document human rights abuses and initiate measures to ensure durable peace for a just and amicable settlement of Kashmir dispute.

Greater Kashmir, 12 December 2007

Kashmir still dominates Pak politics, PML-Q manifesto tells all

Despite political instability in Pakistan, the Kashmir issue continues to remain dominant discourse in the country, with political parties highlighting it in their election manifestos. To begin with, the Pakistan Muslim League (Q) has called for resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and described the Hurriyat Conference here is no mention of Geelani or Mirwaiz faction as true representative of Kashmiris.

Greater Kashmir, 12 December 2007

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Greater Kashmir, 12 December 2007

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Greater Kashmir, 12 December 2007

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Greater Kashmir, 13 December 2007

CONTEST POLLS, OMAR URGES MIRWAIZ

National Conference president Omar Abdullah on Thursday asked the Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to participate in the coming assembly elections and make his demand of restoration of pre-1953 position as the poll manifesto. I dont want Hurriyat Conference should boycott the elections. (Mirwaiz) Umar Farooq wants pre-1953 position with slight modification. Let him contest the elections and make his point, Omar told reporters after addressing a rally in Pulwama town hall, first time after 2002 elections.

The Tribune, 13 December 2007

Election Matters: Delimitation debate takes centre-stage

With the assembly elections less than a year away, the debate about the delimitation of the assembly segments has already begun in the state. Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has been maintaining that the state constitution will need to be amended for any such process. However, the opposition Bhartiya Janata Party is not prepared to buy the argument. It maintained that there was no such need as the delimitation of assembly segments was a mandatory requirement after every census.

The Tribune, 13 December 2007

Give every Kashmiri Pandit his due

Youth wing of the All India Kashmiri Samaj (YWAIKS) has demanded that the Central and state governments should provide relief benefits to the bifurcated ration card holders. After the migration of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir 17 years ago, the government placed the migrated families into two categories, and relief benefits were given accordingly. The family with its head in a government service was not given relief benefits whereas relief benefits were given to non-serving family heads.