

Daily Excelsior, 1 July 2008

### **Total bandh in Jammu amid massive protests**

JAMMU, June 30: Following the unprecedented bandh in entire Jammu region today, the saffron parties this evening extended the bandh call for two more days, till July 2, in protest against State Government's decision to take control of Shri Amarnath yatra and Kashmiri leaders outburst against the Shrine Board and yatra. The bandh call for today evoked spontaneous and massive response from every nook and corner of the region with people holding high intensity protest demonstrations throughout the day to express their anger against State Governments decision to take control of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and Kashmiri leaders outburst against Shri Amarnath Shrine Board. Governor, N N Vohra also came under severe criticism for his pro-separatists decision giving up Boards claims over the land

Daily Excelsior, 1 July 2008

### **Governor asks Azad to prove majority by July 7**

SRINAGAR, June 30: Governor, N N Vohra, today addressed a letter to Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, asking him to prove majority on the floor of the Legislative Assembly by July 7th. Raj Bhavan spokesman said in a statement this afternoon that Governor, in a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, has asked Mr Azad to prove majority on the floor of the House on any date not later than July 07, 2008, in keeping with established conventions of Parliamentary democracy

Hindu, 2 July 2008

### **Land allotment to Shrine Board cancelled**

SRINAGAR: In a bid to end the 10-day-long crisis, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday cancelled the order of transfer of 39.88 hectares of forest land to the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. Mainstream parties welcomed the decision and the Action Committee Against Land Transfer called off the strike, planned for Wednesday, and asked people to resume normal life. Its chairman Mian Abdul Qayoom said it was a victory for the people of Kashmir. The Cabinet, which met with Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in the chair, decided to cancel the allotment of 39.88 hectares of forest land 'diverted to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board at Baltal and Domail.'

Daily Excelsior, 2 July 2008

### **Trial of strength**

All eyes in the State will now be focussed on the Azad Government's trial of strength in the Assembly on July 7. It has been necessitated because of withdrawal from the coalition government by one of its major constituents, People's Democratic Party (PDP). The PDP has pulled out in protest against the allotment of land to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) in the Kashmir region. In any case the relationship between the Congress and the PDP was tense ever since the former had taken over the leadership of the ruling alliance in November 2005. At times their ties appeared to be farcical. Their differences had come to the fore even on such sensitive issues as security for political leaders, grant of permanent resident status to women married to non-State subjects and the occupation of orchards and private buildings by uniformed forces. The two parties have mostly looked in different directions. Their parting of ways is thus a natural corollary. To say, however, that it is a lasting separation may not be correct. It is an old saying that politics in our State especially in the Valley is unpredictable changing like its weather. What seems to be the truth in day is almost denied during night

Indian Express, 3 July 2008

### **Amarnath land row: 3 killed in MP bandh violence, curfew in Indore**

Bhopal, July 3: Even as the VHP-BJP's nationwide bandh over the Amarnath land issue affected normal life in parts of the country, Indore was worst hit, with at least three persons being killed in the violence. Curfew was imposed in four police station areas of the BJP-ruled state's commercial capital. Unofficial sources put the total toll at four. The trouble began in Muslim-dominated Khajrana locality, where local shopkeepers resisted the attempts of the VHP and Bajrang Dal activists to enforce the bandh. According to eyewitnesses, the activists returned with policemen, who allegedly forced the shopkeepers to down shutters. The locals refused to fall in line and reportedly stoned the police, who later returned with more personnel

Hindu, 3 July 2008

### **11 militants killed in Kashmir encounter**

SRINAGAR: Eleven militants and a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army were killed in a gun-battle that began over 36 hours ago near the Line of Control. Army spokesman Colonel Uma Maheshwar told The Hindu that troops noticed the movement of militants two days ago in the Tanghdar area in Kupwara district, around 100 km from here, and challenged them. The militants opened fire in return. Till Wednesday morning, seven militants and JCO Subedar Dhyani Singh had been killed. Four more militants were killed by late afternoon, Col. Maheshwar said

Tribune, 4 July 2008

### **Jammu continues to burn**

Defying curfew for the second day today, violent protesters went on a rampage, halting trains, setting ablaze police vehicles and fighting pitched battles with the police in fresh violence over the Amarnath land row in the region. Companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) were also pressed into service to maintain calm in the winter capital, while the Army staged a flag march in Kathua district

Tribune, 4 July 2008

### **LeT's valley chief shot dead**

Operational chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Kashmir Abu Atif was shot dead after an encounter in Pulwama today. Active in the valley for the past decade, Atif played a key role in the December 2005 terror attack on the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore and suicide attack on a CRPF garrison in Rampur, said Kashmir's IGP S.M. Sahai. Security forces trapped Atif, who hailed from Pakistan and rose to become the operational chief of LeT in Kashmir, in a house in Shopian village

Hindu, 5 July 2008

### **Jammu peaceful, but curfew stays**

Jammu: A day after a joint appeal for by prominent citizens of Jammu, the region was by and large peaceful on Friday though curfew remained in several areas for the fourth consecutive day. The bandh, called by the BJP, the Shiv Sena, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal to protest cancellation of Baltal land allotment to Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has already been extended till July 6

Hindu, 5 July 2008

### **Lashkar lynchpin killed**

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu and Kashmir have identified a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative killed on Thursday as the long-missing lynchpin who provided logistical support to the December 2005 attack on the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Known only by the code-names Abu Atif and Sadaaq, the Lashkar commander is believed to have supplied the weapons and crack fidayeen who carried out the IISc.

attack, as well as a December 31, 2007 strike on a Central Reserve Police Force training base in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh

Hindu, 6 July 2008

### **Jammu & Kashmir government shaky on eve of vote of confidence**

NEW DELHI: On the eve of a confidence vote that will decide the fate of the Congress-led coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir, the party's central leadership has initiated an eleventh-hour dialogue with its estranged ally, the People's Democratic Party. New Delhi-based Congress leaders and National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan have spoken to the former Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who is in the U.S. for treatment of a cardiac condition, asking that the PDP abstain from voting on Monday

Daily Excelsior, 9 July 2008

### **Section 92 empowers Governor to assume all functions**

JAMMU, July 8: The State of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to be brought under the Governor's rule for the fifth time, the lowest period of which has been 15 days and the highest tenure has lasted nearly seven years. Under the J&K Constitution, the Governor has powers to impose his rule in the State under Section 92, Sub Section 5 with the concurrence of President of India. With Governor N N Vohra, who had assumed his office just two weeks ago after the exit of his predecessor Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha, having recommended Governor's rule in the State after Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad submitted his resignation yesterday, an announcement regarding imposition of the Governor rule is expected any time now, official sources said

Daily Excelsior, 10 July 2008

### **HM, JeM cadre infiltrate under Lashkar banner**

JAMMU, July 9: In a new twist to ongoing militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have thrown their entire weight behind Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) virtually forcing Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit, once a darling of Pakistan after Kandahar hijack, and Hizbul Mujahideen outfit to strike a secret deal with the LeT to push their ultras in J&K in the guise of LeT cadre. Intelligence sources told the Excelsior that Abdul Wahid Kashmiri, an ideologue of LeT and Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, chief operation commander of LeT, presently operating from Muzaffarabad (PoK), have recently held secret meetings with top brass of Pakistan army and their spy wing, ISI, during which they succeeded in winning over "majority support" in terms of finances, weaponry and infrastructure for their outfit sidelining two other major groups operating in J&K-the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Jaish

Tribune, 17 July 2008

### **Tourism industry hit by land row**

The tourism industry here has been hit hard by the Amarnath land row and business has registered a considerable fall over the past few days. 'There was no end to hustle-bustle at our taxi stand throughout the day prior to the land row agitation in the state, but now the number of tourists coming here has fallen,' Sudarshan Sharma, manager, Taxi Operators Union said

Tribune, 17 July 2008

### **Yatra affecting aesthetic ambience of Pahalgam**

Pahalgam, July 17 The increasing number of pilgrims to the Amarnath cave shrine, for which Pahalgam traditionally serves as the base camp, has raised questions over preserving the fragile eco-system here, during the two-month-long yatra. While

security arrangements for pilgrims attract more attention of the administration, the eco-system and aesthetic ambience of the tourist spot seems to have suffered even as various measures are being taken for its preservation

Daily Excelsior, 17 July 2008

**2 militants, SPO killed in Sopore**

SRINAGAR, July 16: Two militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit and a Special Police Officer (SPO) of Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police got killed and about a dozen, including a second-in-command of a battalion of Rashtyriya Rifles (RR) sustained injuries in 18-hour-long gunbattle at Warpora village, on Sopore-Bandipore Road, today. Informed sources in North Kashmir told EXCELSIOR that, over a specific information, SOG Sopore and troops of RR 22 Bn launched a cordon-and-search operation at Warpora, on Sopore-Bandipore Road, last evening. According to the information, two militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad organization were hiding at the residential house of one Ghulam Hassan War S/o Haji Subhan War

Daily Excelsior, 17 July 2008

**Complete, peaceful bandh observed in Jammu**

JAMMU, July 16: A complete and peaceful bandh was observed in Jammu amidst protest demonstrations and rallies against Governor, N N Vohra, who has been accused of fulfilling anti-Hindu agenda of separatists and Kashmiri leaders by not restoring the land to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board despite wide-spread resentment across the Jammu region. The bandh call was given by Shri Amarnath Yatra Sangarsh Samiti and supported by several political, social, religious and trade bodies demanding removal of Governor and restoration of land to SASB

Daily Excelsior, 17 July 2008

**Weekly bus service between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad soon**

SRINAGAR, July 15: A weekly bus service between Srinagar and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has been under active consideration of the Government, Regional Passport Officer (RPO) B Manavalan said. Participating in the DD-live programme here, Mr Manavalan said at present, there were five points - three in Kashmir valley and two in the Jammu region - from where people from the State and PoK crossed sides. Two points were connected by road, while at three places, people had to cross on foot, he said

Daily Excelsior, 17 July 2008

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Tribune, 18 July 2008

**Encounters in Sopore not something unusual**

Encounters in Sopore, an old bastion of separatists where two militants were shot dead by security forces yesterday, are not a new thing. Sopore, the home of hardline Hurriyat leader S.A.S. Geelani, is among the richest areas in Kashmir due to its prolific apple business and trade and was once the backbone of armed militancy. Its narrow and populated lanes were the most hostile terrains for security forces and

their vehicles were routinely attacked before they managed to crush the support for militants

Dawn, 18 July 2008

### **Most Pakistanis, Indians flexible on Kashmir: Opinion poll in subcontinent**

NEW DELHI, July 17: People in India and Pakistan show a readiness to let the disputed region of Kashmir decide its own fate, and many will tolerate independence if that ended the long-running dispute, a rare poll on the crisis shows. A survey by the WorldPublicOpinion.org asked Indian and Pakistanis to consider a range of possible outcomes for the Kashmir question and to say whether they found them desirable, acceptable, tolerable, or unacceptable. A majority of those surveyed would find independence at least tolerable if Kashmiris wanted it

Hindu, 18 July 2008

### **India, Pakistan agree on Kashmir-specific CBMs**

ISLAMABAD: Indian and Pakistani officials are said to have arrived at a 'number of decisions' on new and existing Kashmir-specific confidence building measures, including a proposed triple-entry permit for cross-Line of Control travel, at the talks held here on Friday. 'They have arrived at a number of decisions, all related to the modalities for implementing what was decided by the [Indian and Pakistani] Foreign Ministers at their May 21 meeting,' said an official. The two sides are said to have discussed the introduction of a triple-entry permit for cross-LoC travel, simplification of the procedures for getting the permit which at present takes at least two years, and an increase in the frequency of the two bus services across the LoC

Tribune, 18 July 2008

### **Hurriyat unity hits the wall**

Srinagar, July 18 The unification talks between two Hurriyat factions have hit a wall with a number of top leaders of the moderate faction headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq finding it difficult to reconcile with the belligerent attitude of Syed Ali Shah Gilani, who heads the another faction. What has added to discomfort of this group of separatists, which include their main leaders like Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat and Bilal Lone, is the recent veiled threat of Hizbul Mujahideen's supremo Syed Salahuddin to those who dither over unity

Tribune, 18 July 2008

### **Gujjars demand political reservation**

Srinagar, July 18 Gujjars in the state have demanded that 21 constituencies of the State Assembly and 10 seats of the Legislative Council be reserved for the Scheduled Tribe communities on the pattern of Scheduled Caste. A spokesman of the state wing of the Akhil Bharatiya Gujjar Maha Sabha said a delegation of Gujjars led by its president, Ashfaq-ur-Rehman Poswal, met Governor N.N. Vohra and apprised him of various problems being faced by tribal population in the state

Daily Excelsior, 18 July 2008

### **One killed, another injured, VDC member kidnapped; 36 wounded in Banihal grenade blast**

JAMMU/RAMBAN, July 18: A civilian was killed and another injured while a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member was still in captivity of the militants at Dudu Basantgarh in Udhampur district while 36 persons including four para-military and two police personnel were injured when a militant lobbed a grenade on a CRPF Gypsy outside State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Banihal town of Ramban district today afternoon. Five seriously injured persons including an Assistant Commandant of CRPF

were later airlifted to Jammu and admitted in Government Medical College hospital, Jammu

Hindu, 20 July 2008

### **Seven killed, 23 injured in IED blast**

SRINAGAR: At least seven army men were killed and 23 injured, some of them seriously, when militants exploded an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting an Army convoy on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway on Saturday. In other incidents, six militants were killed across Kashmir valley in the past 24 hours. Brigadier K. Muthana Commander of 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles said the IED planted on the roadside at Narbal was triggered possibly by a remote control device. 'The Army convoy carrying transit troopers was coming from Baramulla to Srinagar. The bus was carrying 30 Army personnel. Seven died on the spot. The rest were injured, some of them critically' said Brig. Muthana who rushed to the spot soon after blast. He said that it was not a security lapse and Army would investigate the matter. 'Violence as such is a never ending process and militants always try to do something when they see easy targets.'

Tribune, 20 July 2008

### **2 girls tonsured by LeT ultras**

Udhampur, July 20 Tension flared in Gandoh area of Doda district after a group of militants of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) allegedly tonsured two girls who had gone in the forest area with their cattle. While additional forces had been rushed to track down the militants, members of the village defence committees (VDCs) had been put on a high alert. Police sources said two LeT militants -- Yasir Wani and Sajjad Ahmed -- intercepted the girls when they were grazing cattle. Belonging to Chalias village of Gandoh, the girls were tonsured as militants suspected them to be Army 'spies.'

Hindu, 21 July 2008

### **2 killed in grenade attack**

SRINAGAR: Two people, including a tourist, were killed and five injured when militants hurled a grenade at a crowded market in famed tourist spot Gulmarg on Sunday. Inspector-General of Police (Operations), North Kashmir, B. Sirinivas said the grenade was thrown near a hotel at 5 p.m. and Arun Kumar from Uttar Pradesh died on the spot. A 12-year-old ponywalla, brought here with multiple injuries, died later. The injured were admitted to a hospital in Tangmarg. Mr. Sirinivas, along with Deputy Commissioner of Baramulla Baseer Khan, rushed to Gulmarg to take stock of the situation

Hindu, 21 July 2008

### **Amidst peace talks, LoC truce disintegrates**

NEW DELHI: Even as India and Pakistan have reported progress in their ongoing dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir, the 2003 Line of Control ceasefire, the keystone that holds up the détente process, is beginning to disintegrate. Indian troops reported three attacks on forward positions on Thursday, the latest in over a dozen clashes this year that ruptured a ceasefire that went into place along the Line of Control in 2003. The clashes took place less than 24 hours before bureaucrats from both countries met to discuss cross-LoC confidence-building measures

Indian Express, 22 July 2008

### **Bid to attack Amarnath yatis foiled, 3 militants killed: police**

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have foiled a plan of attack on Amarnath pilgrims by killing three militants in encounters across

the Valley since Sunday evening. Two militants of the LeT, who were planning to attack the yatra convoy bound for Srinagar, were killed in Ganderbal district, said the police. A police spokesman in Srinagar said the Ganderbal police cordoned off Nagabal Derand village around 6 pm on Sunday following a tip-off about the presence of militants who were conspiring to attack the yatris

Daily Excelsior, 22 July 2008

#### **Ganderbal gunfight ends with death of 2 Pak militants**

SRINAGAR, July 21: Even as both the Pakistani militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba, who had attacked the Amarnath Yatra convoy and its paramilitary protection last evening, have been eliminated by security forces, twin tourist attractions of Gulmarg and Tangmarg today observed total shutdown against yesterday's grenade attack on some Lucknow-based pilgrims. Official sources told EXCELSIOR that the gunbattle between militants and security forces, that had started with the militants' attack on an Amarnath Yatra caravan at Nagbal, on Srinagar-Ganderbal Road at 2010 hours last evening, has ended with the death of two militants. Sources said that at 0100 hours, both the militants were spotted and eliminated in a fierce gunfight. Sources said that three personnel of SOG Ganderbal sustained injuries. Militants killed in the encounter have been identified as Syed Abid Ahmed alias Akash S/o Mukhtar Ahmed R/o Narowal, Sialkote, Pakistan and Sageer Ahmed Shah alias Garain S/o Hassan Shah R/o Abbotabad, NWFP, Pakistan

Daily Excelsior, 22 July 2008

#### **Amarnath pilgrimage crosses 5 lakh mark**

JAMMU, July 21: Notwithstanding attack on yatris at Ganderbal and Gulmarg in Kashmir valley yesterday, the number of yatris leaving three base camps for holy shrine of Baba Amarnath ji as well as the pilgrims performing darshan went up today as compared to the figure of last couple of days while the pilgrimage today crossed 5 lakh mark for the first time in the history. With 5607 pilgrims having darshan at Amarnath shrine today, the total number of yatris who have paid obeisance to Lord Shiva in the cave shrine at South Kashmir Himalayas since the yatra began on June 17, crossed 5 lakh mark this evening

Daily Times, 22 July 2008

#### **Pakistan, India announce more Kashmir CBMs**

NEW DELHI: Despite a chill in talks owing to India accusing Pakistan of involvement in the bombing at its Kabul embassy, both countries on Monday announced a series of Kashmir-related confidence building measures (CBMs). Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon and his Pakistani counterpart Salman Bashir announced the cross-border CBMs at separate press conferences after holding talks and initiating the fifth round of the composite dialogue. The two sides agreed upon these measures during a meeting of the Pak-India Working Group in Islamabad last Friday

Daily Excelsior, 22 July 2008

#### **Editorial: Frantic militants and coming elections**

With Assembly elections around the corner the militants in the State are getting frantic. This is evident from step-up in their strikes. Their most deadly hit recently has been at an Army convoy at the Narbal crossing on the Srinagar-Baramulla road at the outskirts of the Summer Capital on Saturday. In an evidently planned ambush they managed to target one of the vehicles taking by surprise all of its occupants. About ten soldiers were killed and 18 seriously injured in their audacious attempt

Hindu, 23 July 2008

### **Tension on LoC after cease-fire violations; \*LeT ultra held on infiltration**

JAMMU, July 22: For the last four and a half years cease-fire on Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) was holding successfully barring minor incidents of inadvertent firing. Things have, however, sharply changed for the last one and a half month with tension building on both sides of LoC in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. "Firing of rockets is definitely a major incident though we are downplaying it for the sake of cease-fire. Troops have suffered a number of casualties, both fatal and non-fatal on LoC during last two months but we have been keeping the incidents in low profile except for lodging formal protests with Pakistan commanders in the flag meetings. However, the assurances held out in the flag meetings are not being adhered to and firing from Pakistan side is taking place again and again", Army sources said

Daily Excelsior, 23 July 2008

### **Govt ready for Assembly polls**

SRINAGAR, July 22: Governor, N N Vohra today called for close synergy among various security agencies engaged in counter-militancy operations in the State and observed that the Security Grid had to be further strengthened in view of ensuing elections to the State Assembly. Chairing the Combined Unified Headquarters meeting here this morning, the Governor stressed for enhancing vigil, particularly in the wake of recent acts of violence perpetrated by terrorists. He cautioned that while the militants should be tackled sternly, all precautions be taken to avoid collateral damages

Hindu, 24 July 2008

### **LoC skirmish claims soldier's life**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan-based jihadists launched fresh assaults on Indian forward positions along the Line of Control over the weekend, leading to skirmishes which have claimed the life of at least one soldier. BSF head constable Bhanwar Lal was killed at Mukhiari Post in the Rajouri sector on Tuesday morning, after the position was attacked by jihadists armed with rocket launchers, under-barrel grenade-launchers and automatic rifles

Daily Excelsior, 24 July 2008

### **Youth sacrifices life over land row; Another call for Jammu bandh today**

JAMMU, July 23: A youth taking part in the chain hunger strike against cancellation of forest land to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) today sacrificed his life after consuming poison in protest against the remarks of National Conference chief, Omar Abdullah in Parliament yesterday that the land to Amarnath shrine Board will be returned only over dead bodies of the Kashmiris. Following death of the youth, the activists of Sangarsh Samiti and other organisations went on a rampage in the City pelting stones on moving vehicles and enforcing a bandh in some City areas. The mob also ransacked mortuary of Government Medical College, Jammu and twice lifted body of the martyr to shift it to the venue of dharna. The Samiti has given a call for Jammu bandh tomorrow. The Bar Association Jammu has also called for a bandh tomorrow

Daily Excelsior, 24 July 2008

### **16 killed, 28 injured in Banihal bus mishap; Driver's negligence behind accident**

JAMMU, July 23: In a tragic incident, 16 labourers were killed and 28 others received injuries when a bus, they were travelling in, plunged into 150 feet deep gorge at Sherbibi on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway under the jurisdiction of Banihal

Police Station in the wee hours of today. The ill-fated vehicle bearing registration number JK02P-8745 carrying labourers left General Bus Stand here at around 10 pm yesterday for Srinagar and driver stopped the vehicle at Chanderkote for sometime keeping in view the closure of the Jawahar Tunnel

Daily Excelsior, 24 July 2008

### **Intelligence worried by LeT messages to Sudan**

JAMMU, July 23: Intelligence agencies are worried over frequent calls made by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commanders from Pir Panjal range to Sudan through a communication centre of the outfit unearthed recently by them along with police in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district. The telephone calls have been made through a Thoraya satellite telephone, which was seized from the possession of an Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) mole, Mohd Naseem Thakur, who was running a full-fledged communication centre of Lashkar outfit in his house at Narol, Mendhar, official sources said

Hindu, 25 July 2008

### **Five of family killed in grenade blast in Srinagar**

SRINAGAR: Five people of the same family, four of them children, were killed and 18 injured when unknown persons hurled a grenade at the crowded Batmaloo bus stand here on Thursday afternoon. Witnesses told The Hindu that the attack took place around 12.15 p.m. Three people were killed on the spot, while two died of injuries in hospital. One report said the victims belonged to a family of migrant labourers boarding a bus for Jammu for onward journey to their native places. Another said they were waiting for a bus. The deceased were 12-year-old Khushboo and her three brothers Adil (4), Qayoom (5), and Ajoob (8), all children of Mohammad Afroze of Bihar. The mother Rubina was also killed. Sources said Afroze fainted at the hospital on learning that his entire family had been killed. The injured have been hospitalised

Hindu, 25 July 2008

### **Srinagar grenade attack a response to Islamists' calls**

Less than 24 hours before the tragic killings, Islamist leader Hilal Ahmad War had asked non-Kashmiri workers to leave the region, warning that they would otherwise be 'forcibly evicted.' Mr. War claimed that the migrants were threatening 'our economy, our daughters and our future generations.' He even alleged that migrant workers were spreading 'various diseases, including AIDS.' Interestingly, Mr. War said his People's Political Party, a minor secessionist group, would welcome 'technocrats, doctors, engineers, businessmen, tourists and students from different Indian States.'

Tribune, 25 July 2008

### **Ultras kill ex-Hizbul man, 3 family members**

Udhampur, July 24 In a gruesome incident, two militants gunned down a surrendered ultra of the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) along with three members of his family, in Marmat area of Doda district today. Ghulam Hassan Wani, dubbed as an 'informer' by the terrorists, his two minor children and his wife, were gunned down by the militants. Police sources said the two militants belonged to the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT)

Tribune, 25 July 2008

### **Clashes as cops try to cremate body**

Jammu, July 24 Violent clashes broke out between protesters and the police at Bishnah in the wee hours today as the latter reportedly tried to forcibly cremate the

body of Kuldeep Dogra, who allegedly committed suicide over the Amarnath land row yesterday. The district administration had to impose curfew in the morning after the situation became tense around 2.30 am when the police took away Kuldeep's body from the city's Parade area to Bishnah

Tribune, 26 July 2008

### **Protest continues, Omar's effigy burnt**

Udhampur, July 25: While Udhampur and adjoining localities observed total shutdown on the second consecutive day in response to the bandh call given by the Shri Amarnath Sangarsh Samittee (SASS), demonstration continued against National Conference president Omar Abdullah for his, what people dubbed, "insulting" remarks in the Lok Sabha on land controversy. To express their anger against NC president, people took out "funeral procession" of Omar Abdullah and burnt his effigies at many places in Udhampur district. Anti-NC slogans were raised when activists of SASS torched effigies of Omar Abdullah and demanding registration of a case against him for hurting sentiments of people

Tribune, 26 July 2008

### **Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus: Team reviews arrangements for weekly service**

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus: Team reviews arrangements for weekly service  
Srinagar, July 25: A high-level team of officers yesterday visited Uri-Kaman post stretch of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road to review arrangements for the proposed weekly bus service and commencement of truck services across the LoC from next month. The fortnightly bus service, '-Caravan-e-Aman', has been operational for the divided families on either side of the LoC since April 7, 2005, while steps to increase the frequency of bus service to weekly and beginning of trade along the route have so far been faced with several hiccups

Hindu, 27 July 2008

### **Pakistan troops open fire**

Jammu: Pakistani troops fired heavily at the Indian forces at a forward post in Krishna Ghatti sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a defence spokesman said here. However, the Indian troops exercised restraint and did not retaliate, Lieutenant Colonel S.D. Goswami told PTI. Giving details, the spokesman said some unidentified ultras fired about three rounds of Rocket Propelled Gun at the Indian post in Nagri Tekri area of Krishna Ghatti sector of Poonch district this morning

Tribune, 27 July 2008

### **Violence flares up in Jammu; 10 cops among 25 injured, protesters throw petrol bombs**

Jammu, July 26: Over 25 persons, including 10 policemen, were injured as protesters resorted to stone-pelting and arson over the Amarnath land row here today. Four of these cops are reported to have sustained serious injuries. Though many parts of the city witnessed protests, Muthi and Mishriwala, which primarily house the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community, witnessed pitched battles between the police and the protesters

Hindu, 28 July 2008

### **Curfew imposed in Jammu**

Jammu: A day after the large-scale violence in which around 70 persons were injured, curfew was imposed in Jammu on Sunday. Protesters, however, defied the orders and took out rallies, clashed with police and burnt tyres, as demonstrations against the revocation of the order allotting land to the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board

showed no signs of abating. Police fired several rounds in the air to disperse the mobs and resorted to cane-charge

Hindu, 28 July 2008

**Where communal harmony is a way of life**

Mahore: In this remote hamlet on the foothills of Pir Panjal range of Reasi district, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus have come together to fight militancy. Secularism is not merely a theoretical concept for the residents but they live it every day. 'For us respect for each others' religious sentiments is a way of life which we inherited from our ancestors. We are against anybody who misuses the religion for narrow ends,' says Mohammad Qasim, a village elder. This was the prime reason that the locals from all faiths picked up weapons to fight militancy

Tribune, 28 July 2008

**Two Pak militants killed in Kupwara; Hideout busted, ammunition seized**

Srinagar, July 27 The security forces today killed two militants in Kupwara district in a three-hour-long encounter. Both militants are from Pakistan, SSP Uttam Chand said. The Police and 9 Para unit of the Army cordoned off Gujarpati Surigam village following a tipoff about the presence of militants there. An encounter ensued as trapped militants refused to surrender. The killed militants have been identified as Abdullah and Abu Bakar, the SSP said

Indian Express, 29 July 2008

**Jawan shot dead by Pak troops in what Army says is first LoC incursion after Kargil**

NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, JULY 28: In the first incursion on the Line of Control after the 1999 Kargil war, a group of 10-12 Pakistani soldiers, holding a white flag, crossed into Kupwara and shot dead an Indian jawan this afternoon after an argument over an Indian counter-insurgency surveillance post. While there have been a series of cross-border firing incidents in the past few weeks, including an episode on June 19 that left four Pakistani soldiers dead, this is the first time that troops came more than 100 metres into Indian territory and opened fire at an Army post

Daily Excelsior, 29 July 2008

**Army says Pak troops crossed LoC in Nowgam**

SRINAGAR, July 28: At least one soldier of 22-Rajput has got killed in a fierce gunbattle as Defence authorities claimed that Pakistani troops violated the November 2003 ceasefire between India and Pakistan with crossing over to the Indian side on the LoC. Defence spokesman at headquarters 15 Corps, Col A K Mathur, told EXCELSIOR that the Indian Army noticed the movement of a group of 10 to 12 Pakistani soldiers at Kayian Bal in Leepa Valley at 1530 hours today. According to him, Pakistani soldiers crossed the LoC and opened fire when they were challenged to halt. He said that one Indian soldier, identified as Sepoy Mahesh, got killed. He said that the Indian troops retaliated and forced the Pakistani soldiers retreat. "Fierce gunbattle is going on as troops from both sides are using light combat weapons", Col Mathur said

Daily Excelsior, 29 July 2008

**Weekly crossing arrangements reviewed**

POONCH, July 28: In view of the decision of the Indian and Pakistani Governments to change periodicity of opening of Chakkan-da-Bagh LoC point here from fortnightly to weekly, Director General of Police Kuldeep Khoda and Principal Secretary Home, Anil

Goswami visited the LoC point which witnessed the crossing of 204 passengers today. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Mohd Afzal Bhat, SSP Basant Kumar Rath and other officials of the intelligence agencies and Army, Mr Khoda and Mr Goswami arrived the township of Poonch from Srinagar and then straightway proceeded towards the Chakkan-da-Bagh Line of Control point which is hardly 12 kms from the town

Hindu, 30 July 2008

### **'Policemen lack cutting edge to tackle terrorism'**

NEW DELHI: Even as the Union Home Ministry has sent advisories to the States to strengthen ground-level policing and spruce up special police branches for gathering intelligence, the cutting edge of police officers right from beat constables to inspectors do not have technological edge, lack expertise and motivation to deal with the threat of terrorism and smash tech-savvy terror networks. Jolted by a series of blasts in Bangalore and Ahmedabad and recovery of unexploded bombs in Surat, the Home Ministry is giving a re-look at the basics of the core policing and involving citizens, voluntary groups and other sections of society to remain alert and act as a bulwark against the threat of terrorism. The Ministry has also prepared a blueprint for 'metro policing' in cities like Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

Hindu, 30 July 2008

### **Editorial: Arrest this negative trend**

India and Pakistan have wisely decided not to make too much of the flare-up on the Line of Control, although they have put out contradictory versions of the incident. In allowing the problem to be sorted out at the battalion commander level, the two sides signalled that they wished to treat it as a disturbance in a confined area. The Directors General of Military Operations of the two armies have also been in touch on a hotline in an effort to keep the situation under control. That said, there is clearly a need for Islamabad and New Delhi to put in greater efforts to arrest this negative trend. A ceasefire that has held quite well for over four years has been allegedly violated on at least 19 occasions since January 2008. In Islamabad's version, the clashes occurred mainly because Indian army units have built new forward observation posts in a display of aggressive intent. If this is the case, a clear demarcation of positions held at the time the ceasefire was instituted could reduce the chances of intentions being misconstrued. According to New Delhi, on most occasions Pakistani troops opened fire to facilitate infiltration by militant groups. This version needs to be treated as credible because there were provocative actions of this sort on a fairly regular basis before the ceasefire was put in place. A few months ago, there was even a case of mistaken identity: Pakistani soldiers were killed by a militant group driven back from the Indian side

Tribune, 30 July 2008

### **Truckers may stop supplies to Kashmir valley**

Jammu, July 30 The private truck owners in Jammu are contemplating to boycott supplies to the Kashmir valley. 'As the government has invited the members of the Shri Amarnath Yatra Sangharsh Samiti for talks, we would wait for its outcome. After which we would go by the decision of the samiti,' Ashok Nanda, a leader of transporters said. He said, 'The transporters in Jammu will hold a meeting wherein they would take a decision regarding their further course of action whether or not to stop supplies to the Kashmir valley.' The Oil Tankers Association had already announced that it would halt the fuel supply in the entire state for three days

Hindu, 30 July 2008

### **Skirmish ends on LoC, flag meeting held**

NOWGAM SECTOR: The skirmish between Indian and Pakistani troops on the Line of Control (LoC) ended on Tuesday and was followed by a flag meeting between the two sides to discuss the issue of violation of ceasefire. Even as no journalist was allowed to visit the area beyond a check-post here, reports said that the situation along the LoC was still tense after Monday's incident of Pakistani soldiers sneaking into this side and resulting in heavy gunfight. 'You do not have permission to go ahead. You should get permission from the Ministry of Defence, Delhi,' an Army officer curtly told the journalists

Tribune, 30 July 2008

### **Supply of essential items to Kashmir blocked**

Udhampur, July 29: In response to the call given by the Shri Amarnath Yatra Sangharsh Samiti (SAYSS), a conglomeration of more than 32 social, political, religious and business organizations, activists of various bodies today stopped the supply of essential commodities in the Kashmir Valley. More than 60 vehicles were damaged at several places on the highway and 12 persons were injured. Since morning hundreds of activists who were staging a dharna on the national highway did not allowed any vehicle to proceed further

Tribune, 30 July 2008

### **Pak army forms border teams to boost infiltration**

Jammu, July 29 The increase in the cross-border ceasefire violations by the Pakistani troops is well-knit tactic to keep the Indian Army occupied and to push in maximum number of infiltrators from across the border. According to intelligence inputs, the Pakistan army has constituted border area teams (BAT) consisting of specially trained soldiers to further facilitate the cross-border infiltration of trained militants, reveal intelligence inputs. 'These teams consist of 10 to 15 specially trained soldiers who have been assigned the job to attack an isolated Indian post on the border and inflict maximum damage to it,' an intelligence source informed The Tribune

Hindu, 31 July 2008

### **Firing again on Line of Control**

NEW DELHI: Fresh firing has been reported on the Line of Control in northern Kashmir, less than 24 hours after Indian and Pakistani commanders met in an effort to end clashes that threaten to undermine a ceasefire that has held since 2003. Army sources said six mortar shells were fired at the Keryan Post, in the Nowgam sector, early on Wednesday morning. Manned by troops of 16 Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, the Keryan Post falls under the command of the Kupwara-based 19 Infantry Division, a formation responsible for defending one of the most sensitive, infiltration-besieged stretches of the LoC

Tribune, 31 July 2008

### **'Need to strengthen Indus Water Treaty'**

Srinagar, July 30 Governor N.N. Vohra today called for strengthening the Indus Water Treaty, making it even more beneficial for the people of two countries. In an hour-long interaction with a three-member Pak delegation led by Syed Jamat Ali Shah, Commissioner of Indus Water, Pakistan, here this morning, Vohra said while the people of Kashmir should gain the maximum benefit of water harnessing, those of Pakistan would need to be assured that their interests were not being jeopardised. He said optimum harnessing of the hydel potential of Jammu and Kashmir for generating power would lead to prosperity of the common masses and usher in

overall development of the region

Tribune, 31 July 2008

**Pak team inspects Baglihar project**

Udhampur, July 30 Although India has accepted the recommendations of Prof Raymond Lafittee, a neutral expert appointed by the World Bank, a team of experts from Pakistan today inspected the 450-MW Baglihar hydroelectric project under construction on the Chenab in Ramban district. Pakistan has raised some objections over this project following which the World Bank had appointed a neutral expert to look into the matter. A three-member team of Pakistani experts, headed by Sayeed Jamat Ali Shah, inspected the dam as well as its reservoir and took measurements at Chanderkote in Ramban district. "During their visit in 2005 the Pakistani team had raised some objections about the height of the dam as well as the reservoir. The team especially visited these spots today ", the Power Development Corporation (PDC) MD Shantmanu, who is accompanying the Indian team, said

Daily Excelsior, 31 July 2008

**LAHDC Kargil poll on Aug 30**

KARGIL, July 30: The elections to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil which is completing its term in the second week of August, will be held on August 30, 2008. This was disclosed by Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Kargil, Satish Nehru in a meeting of all District Officers and election related staff organised for gearing up the preparation for the general election to the Council and ensuing Assembly elections. As per the schedule for holding Council election already proposed by the Deputy Commissioner, the date of nomination has been fixed from August 4 to August 11, date of scrutiny on August 12 and date of withdrawal upto August 14

Hindu, 31 July 2008

**Curfew imposed in Jammu**

Jammu: A day after the large-scale violence in which around 70 persons were injured, curfew was imposed in Jammu on Sunday. Protesters, however, defied the orders and took out rallies, clashed with police and burnt tyres, as demonstrations against the revocation of the order allotting land to the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board showed no signs of abating. Police fired several rounds in the air to disperse the mobs and resorted to cane-charge