

The Hindu, 1 June 2005

**``Peace process should be made irreversible``** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Bharatiya Janata Party leader L.K. Advani on Tuesday asserted that the India-Pakistan peace process should be made "irreversible" and it must be taken to its logical conclusion. Barring subtle differences on emphasis, there was complete unanimity between them on the need for the two countries marching towards peace and resolution of all outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference after his meeting with Gen. Musharraf, the BJP leader said it was the "bold and courageous" commitment on the part of the Pakistan President against terrorism that led to a "real breakthrough" in the relations between the countries.

The Indian Express, 1 June 2005

**Geelani comes under fire from People's League**

Srinagar: HARDLINE faction of Hurriyat Conference led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani today came under attack from one of its constituents, J-K People's League. The party leadership blamed the Hurriyat Conference for not raising voice against illegal detention of party chairman Sheikh Abdul Aziz by the Centre government. The J&K People's League had also boycotted the Sunday meeting of Hurriyat Conference Majlis-i-Shoora, where the Hurriyat took a decision not to board June 2, Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus.

The Indian Express, 1 June 2005

**Guv for measures for smooth and safe Amarnath Yatra**

Srinagar: GOVERNOR Lt Gen (retd) S K Sinha today called for measures on war-footing for ensuring smooth, secure and safe yatra to Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir from Baltal route, beginning June 21. In a communication to Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, who is holding a meeting to finalise arrangements for the Yatra today, Gen Sinha in his capacity as Governor and Chairman, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) sought maximum cooperation from the Government and the Board, saying that the objective should be to provide maximum security and satisfaction to the yatrins performing the yatra. He asked all those engaged with the conduct of this unique and most difficult yatra, beset with terrain and weather hazards, to work with missionary zeal for a successful, safe and secure Yatra this year.

The Indian Express, 1 June 2005

**10 militants, 5 jawans killed in J-K encounters**

Jammu/srinagar: TEN militants and five Army personnel were killed in different encounters with the security forces across Jammu and Kashmir since last night. Sources said following a specific information about the presence of militants in Hari Budha area, a joint operation group of the police and the Army launched a search operation. One Army personnel of 14 RR came under the direct fire and died on the spot. While a jawan of 31 RR sustained serious injuries. The other column of the troops immediately took position and retaliated. In the ensuing firefight that continued for four hours, five militants were killed. The slain ultras have been identified as... area commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad... district commander of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen... area commander of Hizbul Mujahideen... area commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit and... district commander of Tehrik-ul-Mujahideen. DIG (Rajouri-Poonch Range) V K Singh described this operation as a major success for the security forces.

The Indian Express, 1 June 2005

**Musharraf seeks BJP's support for J&K peace** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf today sought support of Leader of the Opposition L K Advani and his BJP in continuing the peace process with India. Advani, who is on a weeklong visit to Pakistan, held talks with Musharraf here lasting nearly an hour during which they reviewed the ongoing Indo-Pak peace process. During the course of the talks, Musharraf sought Advani's as well as BJP's support for the ongoing peace process, they said.

The Daily Times, 1 June 2005

**Another 17 die in Kashmir violence** (Associated Foreign press)

SRINAGAR: Twelve Islamic militants, four Indian troops and a civilian have been killed in an upsurge of violence in Indian-held Kashmir just ahead of a visit to Pakistan by moderate separatists, officials said on Tuesday. The toll was the highest in months in the disputed region. Indian soldiers killed five militants in a clash in the border district of Poonch, a defence spokesman said. A soldier also died in the clash, he said. Three more militants and two soldiers died in another clash in Nildoora village, police said. Hardline militant group Al Mansurain said in a statement the three slain militants belonged to the group. In separate clashes late on Monday, four militants died in northern Baramulla and Kupwara districts, police said. A soldier was killed in the fighting and two houses were damaged, a police spokesman said.

The Daily Excelsior, 1 June 2005

### **Advani, Musharraf hopeful of Kashmir solution**

ISLAMABAD: Commencing his visit to Pakistan after nearly 25 years, leader of the opposition L K Advani today held talks with President Pervez Musharraf after which he said both of them were convinced that a solution to Kashmir and other contentious issues would "definitely" be reached. Advani, who earlier held talks with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, said during his hour-long meeting with Musharraf they agreed that the peace process should be made irreversible and "must be taken to its fruition." Advani said he asked the President what would be the next phase of the peace process and Musharraf responded "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and I developed a good understanding. The objective is clear. But the end solution is not clear to us. A lot of preparatory work with a focussed approach is needed." Significantly on Kashmir, Advani told Musharraf that he too wants a solution to the issue which is acceptable to everyone including all the diverse communities in the State and all sections of opinion within Kashmir like the Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

The Daily Excelsior, 1 June 2005

### **Don't communalise Amarnath yatra: Mufti**

JAMMU: Exuding confidence that controversy regarding this year's Sri Amarnath Yatra will be solved amicably, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed today slammed those elements who were trying to give "communal colour" to this issue. "Don't communalise Amarnath Yatra. It is not a communal issue as being projected by a section of media", the Chief Minister reacted... "Security is the main concern before the Government and period of Yatra is not an issue", he said... When asked about his meeting with Governor Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha to solve controversy over Amarnath Yatra, the Chief Minister reacted, "there is no such thing like controversy."

The Daily Excelsior, 1 June 2005

### **5 militant commanders shot dead in Surankote**

JAMMU: Five top militants of five different outfits including two 'district commander' and three 'area commanders' and an Army jawan were killed and another soldier was injured in an encounter at Makhi forest near Hari Budha in Surankote tehsil of Poonch district today while two militants were arrested by police in Kishtwar and Mahore and a civilian was killed by the ultras in Rajouri. Troops trekked deep into the forests for more than four hours before establishing a contact with the militants. A heavy exchange of gun fighting ensued between the two sides for one and a half hour in which all five 'commanders' were killed. An Army jawan also sacrificed his life while fighting bravely in the encounter. Recoveries made from their possession include one Pika gun, four AK-47 rifles, 10 AK magazines, one radio set, RDX, a large quantity of ammunition, six grenades, one radio set and eatables besides some important documents. Killing of five foreign mercenaries was a big setback to their outfits in Surankote, the sources said.

The Daily Excelsior, 1 June 2005

### **Yaseen welcomes PM's announcement of considering greater autonomy to J&K**

Jammu: Welcoming the announcement of Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh for considering greater autonomy to J&K state Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front and Minister for Revenue, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has said that the announcement is a positive move by the Indian leadership to go ahead with the peace process that has already in taken off to solve the long pending Kashmir issue. Mr. Yaseen while addressing a public meeting at Wagar-Budgam today hoped that leadership of both the countries would double their efforts to concretize the peace process and there should be no hesitation from either side for involving the people of Kashmir in the peace process... Yaseen said that it is worth appreciating that the Hurriyat leadership is sincere in its efforts for resolving the Kashmir issue by involving themselves in the peace process.

The Hindu, 2 June 2005

### **Onus on Pakistan, says New Delhi**

NEW DELHI: With the Regional Passport Office in Srinagar reportedly processing the passport applications of several Hurriyat leaders on a priority basis, India on Wednesday said the "onus" for any Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus passenger travelling onward to Islamabad lay "on the Pakistani authorities." Asked about reports that they had been advised to carry their passports in addition to the bus-specific travel permit, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday that "the bilateral understanding [on the bus] is limited for travel, on the basis of permits issued by the two sides, to the entire territory of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir. Asked whether placing the "onus" on Pakistan represented a change in the Government's earlier stand that Islamabad would be breaching a bilateral understanding by letting the Hurriyat leaders travel outside of the PoK, Mr. Sarna said there was no contradiction.

The Hindu, 2 June 2005

### **Nine Hurriyat leaders boarding bus to PoK today (By Shujaat Bukhari)**

SRINAGAR: Nine separatist leaders are leaving on Thursday to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan amid

tight security arrangements. The moderate Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is planning to take a procession up to Uri to show off the party's strength in view of the opposition to the visit by hardliners in the separatist camp. The JKLF had given a list with 17 names but only five were cleared. The Hurriyat leaders said that they would discuss every aspect of the Kashmir situation with the leadership in Pakistan and PoK. "Going to Pakistan will be a big step towards resolving the Kashmir issue," said Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. "The meeting with militants will be at the top of our agenda. We also want to know the stand of the Pakistani people and politicians in getting the Kashmir issue settled.

The Indian Express, 2 June 2005

**PM has promised J&K autonomy: Omar** (Press Trust of India)

Srinagar: The Opposition National Conference today said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement that the Centre was considering granting autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir has "vindicated" the party's stand. "The Prime Minister's statement regarding the autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir is a vindication of the stand of the National Conference and the vision of its founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah," NC President Omar Abdullah said addressing a gathering here today. The NC President said his party is proud of the fact that it has been steadfastly pursuing the agenda of the Sheikh, understanding very well that his agenda is the agenda for the forward movement of the people of Kashmir and their welfare.

The Indian Express, 2 June 2005

**'Govt should clarify its stand on return of KPs'**

Jammu: THE Kashmiri Migrant Democratic Front today said that the return of Kashmir Pandits to the Valley was only possible if the people living there, and the KPs in Kashmir assure them that it was the right time for their return... KMD president, PN Kaul said that the government should clarify its stand on the return of KPs and also ensure that the families which return are compensated for the loss of property, both moveable and immovable. Kaul also said that the KPs were ready to return, provided the Pandits, who have already been living there also assure that it was safe time to come back.

The Indian Express, 2 June 2005

**Centre succumbing to world pressure to tow Islamabad line, says Omar**

Jammu: THE National Conference president Omar Abdullah has said that feeling is coming that New Delhi is succumbing to world pressure to tow the Islamabad line, which may or may not suit the people of Kashmir. Omar... urged the union government that the final solution to the Kashmir imbroglio should emerge from New Delhi in tandem with the aspirations of the people of Kashmir who have suffered in the last couple of years. Omar said solution of the Kashmir crises lies in the succor to the bleeding hearts of the people of Kashmir and country must take all possible initiatives to bring peace in the troubled Kashmir with the interest of people of Jammu and Kashmir who are yearning for peace in mind.

The Indian Express, 2 June 2005

**Inspecting the fence being mended, Guv strikes chord**

Tangdhar (loc): STRUCK by snow and injured by the explosions, residents of the forward areas of Tangdhar and Kupwara sector in North Kashmir were today touched by the warmth of Jammu and Kashmir Governor Lt Gen S K Sinha (ret'd). Sinha today flew to the forward area to inspect the restoration work of the border fence damaged due to the unprecedented snowfall in February this year. The Governor also met and interacted with local residents at Tangdhar, several of whom were victims of grenade attacks and explosions in the border area. The 750-km border fence is a formidable line of defence. The Governor had earlier described it as 'Vij Line' after the former Chief of Army Staff, Gen N C Vij.

The Indian Express, 2 June 2005

**Hurriyat off to PoK today, will be in Pak on Saturday** (By Kjm Varma & Mufti Islah)

Islamabad, Srinagar: Ignoring India's reservations, Hurriyat leaders will travel to Islamabad from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir on June 4 for talks with President Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other leaders. While in PoK, they will meet its President Gen (ret'd) Anwar Khan, Prime Minister Sikander Hayat and other political leaders, besides addressing its Assembly, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said today. They will arrive in Islamabad on June 4 for talks with Musharraf, Aziz and other leaders, Jilani told PTV. According to Jilani, Pakistan considered the visit by Hurriyat leaders "very important" since Islamabad has been demanding the involvement of Kashmiri leaders in the current process to find a solution to the Kashmir issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 2 June 2005

**Separatists all set to board goodwill bus today**

SRINAGAR: An eleven-member Hurriyat delegation led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is all set to board the "Karavan-

e-Aman (caravan of peace)" for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) tomorrow on Islamabad's invitation. Decks were cleared for the moderate faction's visit on the cross border bus with travel permits issued to the delegation though the amalgam leaders are still awaiting issuance of passports to enable them to travel beyond PoK. Hurriyat sources said the separatist leaders will travel to a particular point in their own vehicles and from there they will board the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus to reach the Kaman post. Breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani had rejected Pakistan's invitation to visit that country and PoK in the bus in protest against Islamabad's "flexible stand" on the Kashmir issue. In a meeting at Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK today, the UJC decided not to meet the separatist leaders as a forum when they reach there.

The Daily Excelsior, 2 June 2005

**Valley indifferent to separatist leaders' passage to Pakistan** (By Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)

SRINAGAR: For a positive change, Srinagar is normal on the eve of the Kashmiri separatist leaders' visit to Muzaffarabad and Islamabad, beginning tomorrow. The Kashmiri populace is diametrically divided over the merits and demerits of the separatist leaders' emotional odyssey but there is no organised reaction in favour of or against their visit. There are no firecrackers, no gun salutes, no slogans, no shutdown, no militant strikes, no jubilation, no mourning. Ironically, Pakistan-obsessed Syed Ali Shah Geelani is the only separatist leader to have disappointed Pakistan by curtly turning down that country's invite. Faces are not radiant on the other side either. A news pours in from Muzaffarabad that Syed Salah-ud-din's Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC) had decided in a meeting today that it would not meet any visiting Kashmiri leaders "as a forum". That leaves the spot of a possible meeting between the Hurriyat and Salah-ud-din's own Hizbul Mujahideen vacant.

The Daily Excelsior, 2 June 2005

**Traders to be allowed to visit PoK: Mufti**

PAHALGAM: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said the visit of Kashmiri separatists to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) was a positive sign and it will further strengthen the peace process. He said various distinguished Kashmiri leaders are utilising the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service to go to the other side for strengthening the peace process. Mr Sayeed expressed the hope that they (separatist leaders going to PoK) will be able to motivate those who are yet to join the process. The Chief Minister appreciated the goodwill visit of leader of opposition L K Advani to Pakistan in support of peace. "Pakistan President Pervez Musharaff's statement that no solution of the Kashmir issue will be based on religion is a good omen," he added. He expressed confidence that the desire and aspiration of people of Jammu and Kashmir in accomplishing peace will be realised very soon, which will pave the way for alround development.

The Daily Excelsior, 2 June 2005

**Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad on June 4**

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Ignoring India's reservations, Hurriyat leaders will travel to Islamabad from PoK on June four for talks with President Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other leaders. The Hurriyat leaders, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, would arrive in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) by the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus tomorrow. Jilani said Pakistan considered Hurriyat leaders' visit "very important" as Islamabad has been demanding the involvement of Kashmiri leaders in the current process to find a solution to the Kashmir issue. Both India and Pakistan have cleared the names of 11 leaders of the moderate faction of Hurriyat for the visit. They included Mirwaiz Umar Farooq of Awami Action Committee, Abdul Ghani Bhatt of Muslim Conference, Bilal Ghani Lone of Peoples Conference, Maulvi Abbas Ansari of the Ittehadul Muslimeen and Fazlur Haq of the Peoples Political Council. The hardline faction headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, however, spurned Pakistan's invitation accusing Islamabad of "deviating" from its basic stand on Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 2 June 2005

**4 militants killed in Kashmir**

SRINAGAR: Four militants were killed in Kashmir valley during different militant related incidents during the past 24 hours. An official spokesman said security forces gunned down a militant Nazir Ahmad Goga in an encounter during a search operation at Maligund Aishmuqam in south Kashmir district of Anantnag today. One pistol, one magazine and ten rounds of ammunition were recovered from the slain militant. The local residents staged a protest demonstration alleging that Goga was killed in a fake encounter. Three militants-Reyaz Ahmad Hajam, Mudasir Ahmad and Khurshid Ahmad- were killed by security forces at Nildoora in south Kashmir, he added.

The Hindu, 3 June 2005

**"No solution possible without the involvement of Kashmiris"** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy)

MUZAFFARABAD: Leaders of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat arrived here on Thursday night to a warm welcome by leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan. Soon after setting foot on Pakistan-controlled soil, they expressed support for the India-Pakistan dialogue, on condition that it should lead to a

trilateral process in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. The officialdom, with the entire political class of the PoK and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, turned up at the Peace Bridge to welcome the Kashmiri leaders. Mr. Farooq asserted that Kashmir could never be resolved without the involvement of Kashmiris in dialogue. JKLF leader Yasin Malik took exception to the moderator giving credit to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for allowing the Hurriyat leaders to take the bus to PoK and Pakistan. Mr. Malik said India and Pakistan should engage Kashmiris in the dialogue process as the main party to the "dispute."

The Hindu, 3 June 2005

**Hurriyat leaders pledge to work as bridge between India, Pakistan** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

KAMAN POST (LOC): A nine-member delegation of separatist leaders on Thursday boarded the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus (Karvan-e-Aman) and began its historic visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan with a pledge to work as a bridge between India and Pakistan to resolve the long-standing Kashmir problem. The Mirwaiz and other leaders, who were waving to the crowd, were followed by their supporters amidst chanting of slogans "We want freedom; Hurriyat leaders go ahead, we are with you." Before leaving for Muzaffarabad, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said the Hurriyat was going with an open mind to involve all those associated with the Kashmir issue to find an amicable solution. The Mirwaiz said the "freedom struggle" had entered a crucial phase and "we are happy that the Kashmiris have been recognised as a party to the dispute as we are being allowed to hold separate talks with Pakistan..."

The Hindu, 3 June 2005

**Heavy security for Hurriyat convoy**

SRINAGAR: Unprecedented security arrangements were in place for an incident free-journey for a delegation of separatist leaders from here to the Kaman Post, the last point on the Line of Control (LoC) on this side. In view of a threatening call to the Mirwaiz late last night the police were taking extra precautions. A high level team of officers was monitoring the movement of the Hurriyat leaders at the Police Control Room. In Srinagar, traffic was diverted in many areas as the Hurriyat leaders had to pass through the centre of the city. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad highway was sealed off till the convoy crossed a particular point. The task of sanitising the route was given jointly to Army and para military forces. JKLF chairman Yasin Malik left for the Kaman Post without any fanfare. Without any security he left his Maisuma residence three hours before the Hurriyat leaders.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

**Pak deviating from its stand on Kashmir: Dukhtaran** (By Bashaarat Masood)

Srinagar: AS the Hurriyat leaders today left for Muzaffarabad, Kashmir's frontline women separatist organisation has termed it a plot aimed at seeking endorsement for made-in-America solution to the Kashmir issue. Dukhtaran-i-Milat, the pan-Islamic women's outfit also castigated Pakistan for departure from its stated position on Kashmir... Syeda Aasiya Andrabi, Chairman of the Dukhtaran-i-Millat at a press conference here... said Pakistan has conceded to the American road map, which suggests that India should retain two districts of Jammu and the Ladakh region while Pakistan should keep the northern areas and the rest of Jammu and Kashmir be given limited autonomy. The hard-hitting supremo of the women's outfit accused Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf of taking dictation from America and not taking even his military leadership into the confidence. Andrabi said that Pakistan has deceived the people of Kashmir and followed the American dictates even when it is against its own interests.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

**PoK President's special invite to two Jammu-based Hindus** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: LENDING a personal touch to the thaw in cross-border relations, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir President Anwar Khan has invited two Jammu-based Hindus, whose families got separated after 1947, to visit relatives there. Jagdish Raj Tandon and former MP Tirth Ram Amla will be treated as 'state guests' during their stay in PoK and the invitation was extended through Khalid Hussain, a former J&K government bureaucrat. Hussain said the PoK President took a personal interest and arranged for a telephone conversation between Tandon and his brothers.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

**Gunmen abduct, kill 4 in Valley**

Srinagar: UNIDENTIFIED gunmen abducted and later killed four persons in New Theed, Harwan, on the outskirts of Srinagar city. The incident occurred days after militants had slit throats of four men in the same area. Police said on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, unidentified gunmen barged into the house of Motwali Khan, an ex-serviceman, in Mulnar, New Theed... They forcibly took Khan's two sons... In the same village, the police said unidentified gunmen made a forced entry into the house of Shabir Ahmad Bijran and abducted him along with his brother, Mushtaq Ahmad Bijran. The abductors later took the duo to a nearby forest and killed them by slitting their throats... no militant outfit has so far claimed the responsibility for the killings.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

### **3 Lashkar militants shot dead**

JAMMU: THREE Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were shot dead during an encounter with security forces and the police at Mahakund under Gool area of Udhampur district early this morning. As per sources, after launching a search operation following information of militant presence in the area, security forces and police personnel established contact with the terrorists around 10 am. In the gunbattle that followed, three militants were killed, sources said. DIG Udhampur-Doda range... said two AK rifles, four magazines, one pistol and a damaged wireless were recovered from the slain militants.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

### **Malik travelling to PoK after 17 years** (Press Trust of India)

Srinagar: AMONG the first four militants who had launched the violent secessionist movement in Kashmir in 1989, separatist leader Yaseen Malik today travels to PoK as a different man. In 1988, Malik went to Pakistan, without passport, to receive arms training along with three of his close associates. Only one of his associates, Javid Ahmad Mir, has survived and he heads the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Forum. JKLF's farewell to arms triggered a virtual war with PoK-based Hizbul Mujahideen, which labelled them as traitors. JKLF joined the Hurriyat when it was formed on December 27, 1993.

The Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2005

### **Separatists cross LoC with ocean of ideas**

MUZAFFARABAD: Arriving here on a historic visit, the Hurriyat Conference leadership tonight proposed triangular dialogue involving Kashmiris to resolve the Kashmir issue saying this was the only way out of the imbroglio, reports PTI. Addressing their first press conference in this town of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Hurriyat's acting chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq said "time has proved that bilateralism has failed in the past. Tashkent and Shimla accords and Agra summit have failed because they failed to take the Kashmiris on board. Triangular dialogue is the only way out to involve Kashmiris". Senior Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Bhat said the next stage of talks would be when they travel to New Delhi to hold talks with Indian leaders. On June 4, the separatist leaders are expected to reach Islamabad for separate meetings with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. The visit of the separatist leaders has been overshadowed by breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani's decision not to go to Pakistan and PoK in protest against Islamabad's "flexible stand" on the Kashmir issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2005

### **JJ Singh in Leh on 3 day visit**

NEW DELHI: In the backdrop of India and Pakistan making yet another attempt to seek a solution to the Siachen issue and steadily improving bilateral relations with China, Army Chief General JJ Singh today began a three-day visit to 14 Corps in Ladakh area. The Army Chief has included Siachen, Kargil and Eastern Ladakh in his itinerary during this his first visit to the area since assuming the post on February 1 last. He is scheduled to visit field formations and interact with troops manning the frontiers so as to get first hand account of the ground situation.

The Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2005

### **Kashmir peace bus on fifth run**

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus today embarked on its fifth run carrying 61 passengers from both sides of the Line of Control amid tight security, State Government officials said. The 'Carvan-e-Aman' bus with only one Kashmiri and 21 Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) residents on board left Srinagar this morning from Batmaloo area of Central city, they said. However, eight more passengers - five PoK residents and three Kashmiris - boarded the bus at Salamabad taking the number of passengers to 30, the officials said. They said 31 passengers - 17 PoK residents and 14 Kashmiris - reached here by the peace bus from PoK. There was a heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces along the route to Uri town near the border.

The Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2005

### **3 LeT ultras killed in Goo**

JAMMU: Three Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants including a 'tehsil commander' were gunned down by the Army in an encounter at Mahakund in Gool area of Ramban police district while a Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) ultra surrendered before the security personnel at Kishtwar in Doda today. A contact with the militants was established this afternoon leading to a fierce exchange of gun-battle. In the evening, three militants including a top Lashkar 'commander' were gunned down by the security personnel. Slain militants have been identified as... a LeT 'tehsil commander', who was operating in Gool-Mahore-Gulabgarh belt for last more than three years... a resident of Duksan and Abu Umar R/o Bhimdassa, Gool. Three AK rifles, five magazines and three hand grenades were recovered from their possession. A HUJI militant surrendered before security forces and police at Bindraban in

Kishtwar area of Doda district yesterday. The surrendered militant was active in upper reaches of Kishtwar for past one and a half year. He has been sent for questioning to get clues about hideouts of other HUIJ militants.

The Hindu, 4 June 2005

**We will stay the course, say Hurriyat leaders** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy)

MUZAFFARABAD: The visiting All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders on Friday urged leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan to shed the notions of "romanticism" associated with the "struggle" of the Kashmiris and prepare for a new role in the "changed environment." Syed Ali Shah Geelani, leader of the hardline Hurriyat faction, was apparently the visitors' target for his "negative approach" to the India-Pakistan peace process and efforts for resolution of the Kashmir issue. Picking up the theme, Allama Abbas Ansari said a jihad (holy war) waged with the tongue was more powerful than the one waged with the sword. Yasin Malik prefaced his speech with the remark that he had some "unpleasant" views to convey to the gathering and urged it to shed the culture of hypocrisy for the sake of power and learn to speak the truth. He stunned the audience saying the PoK leaders had to take the maximum blame for the deaths of 80,000 Kashmiris. Bright and young Kashmiris were sucked into militancy, thanks to romanticisation of the "freedom struggle."

The Hindu, 4 June 2005

**APHC does not represent entire State: J&K parties**

JAMMU: People belonging to various political, social organisations have said that any attempt by the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference to present itself as the representative of Jammu and Kashmir during their stay in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan would be a negation of ground realities. The State has three distinct regions which are multiethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious. No political party can claim to be the representative of the entire State. The Hurriyat, by no means, can make this claim. The Ladakhi minister in the Mufti Government, Rigzin Jora, said: "[The] people of Ladakh [both Leh and Kargil] do not consider Hurriyat as their representative as we have our own urges and aspirations. Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Congress Minister said there could be no doubt as to who represented the people of the State: "We have contested the elections and people have voted us braving bullets. There is hardly any doubt who the real representatives of people of the State are."

The Indian Express, 4 June 2005

**Four injured in grenade attack in Kishtwar area**

Jammu: FOUR persons were injured in different militancy-related activities and four over ground workers were arrested besides a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered by the security forces. At Bhanwara Bunjwa in Kishtwar area, unidentified gunmen hurled a grenade at Police picket and also opened fire which resulted into the injuries to four persons... Meanwhile, a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered by a joint serach party of Police and the security forces in Nukunwal and Sarthal forest...

The Indian Express, 4 June 2005

**Months later, common man bears brunt of Fidayeen attack**

Jammu: They have to push their vehicles or drag their scooters through the camp area," he says. People of the area have urged the government to either shift the camp from the residential area or ask the BSF men to stop bothering them this way. "The government is talking of peace, but people are suffering," says an elderly resident of the area adding, "Peace is a welcome step, but there should be change on the ground. People should not be persecuted in this war between militants and security forces."

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**Talks will bear no fruit without APHC inclusion** (By Shahzad Raza)

MUZAFFARABAD: All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders rejected on Friday Indian and Pakistani claims that the peace process was "irreversible", adding that an "imposed" solution to the Kashmir dispute without the involvement of Kashmiris was not acceptable. Addressing the joint sitting of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Azad Kashmir Council, APHC leaders spoke bluntly and showed reservations against Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) leaders. They reiterated that a solution to the Kashmir dispute was only acceptable if the Kashmiri people were involved in dialogue, adding that holding a triangular dialogue was also acceptable to them. APCH leaders said the purpose of their visit was to discuss various options with Pakistani leaders to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chairman Yasin Malik said... Kashmiris would not accept an imposed solution to the dispute, adding that AJK leaders would betray Kashmiris if they favoured a dialogue process without Kashmiris.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2005

**Yasin Malik attacks PoK leaders for 'romanticising' militancy**

MUZAFFARABAD (PoK): Visiting Kashmiri separatist leaders began their political mission to Pakistan today with

some sharply critical words for the leadership here for "romanticising" militancy that has cost thousands of deaths in Jammu and Kashmir. In forthright comments, Malik said that a "romantic aura" created by the PoK leadership about militancy had attracted very talented Kashmiri youth who later lost their lives. As an embarrassed PoK Prime Minister Sikander Hayat Khan watched, one of his Ministers sought permission to respond to Malik's comments but did not have his way. Mirwaiz Farooq said the peace process was "not irreversible" if the basic issue was ignored and added that approaches for resolution of the Kashmir problem could be altered for achievement of the goal.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2005

#### **NC councillor gunned down in Srinagar**

SRINAGAR: Even as security forces have killed three militants in two separate gunbattles in Kashmir valley since last evening, militants have gunned down yet another National Conference councillor in the capital city today. Meanwhile, Shopian township in south Kashmir has turned tense in the wake of a custodial killing. Informed sources told the Excelsior that unidentified gunmen, suspected to be militants ambushed an elected councillor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation... fired upon Bulla, left him critically wounded and made good their escape... Meanwhile, official sources said that in two different gunbattles security forces have killed two militants in Amrohi, Karnah (near LoC) and one militant at Rather Mohalla, Ajas.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2005

#### **4 injured in Kishtwar blast**

JAMMU: Four civilians were injured when a group of militants attacked a police picket with a grenade and opened firing at Bunjwa in Kishtwar area of Doda district last night while another civilian was injured in cross-firing at Chatru. Eleven hideouts of the militants were busted at separate place and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. Official sources said some unidentified militants lobbed a grenade at Bhanwara police picket near Bunjwa, Patnazi in Kishtwar tehsil last night. The grenade attack was followed by firing. The cops retaliated. Militants, however, managed to escape taking cover of darkness, the sources said, adding enforcement of Army and police was rushed to the spot to carry out a search operation for the militants.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2005

#### **Defence Secretary in Valley** (Press Trust of India)

SRINAGAR: Senior army officers briefed Union Defence Secretary Ajai Vikram Singh who arrived here today on a three-day visit to Kashmir valley. Soon after his arrival, Singh was briefed by General Officer Commanding 15 Corps, Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma, and other senior officers at Badamibagh headquarters here, the spokesman said. The Defence Secretary would visit forward areas to review the situation during his stay in the Valley.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2005

#### **India holds key to peace: Geelani**

SRINAGAR: Chairman of the breakaway Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani today said India holds the key to peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The firebrand leader, who rejected Pakistan's offer to visit that country along with other separatist leaders, said India can help restore peace in the State as it holds the key. Mr Geelani, who also heads the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, said he favoured peace. "But peace is not within my power nor in the hands of Pakistan," he claimed.

The Indian Express, 5 June 2005

#### **Kashmir 'slipping away' due to Centre's wrong policies: VHP** (Press Trust of India)

Bhopal: Alleging that Kashmir was 'slipping away' due to wrong policies of the Centre, the VHP on Sunday said Confidence Building Measures with Pakistan like Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service and visit of Hurriyat leaders would be detrimental to India in the long run. "Kashmir is slipping away from us due to wrong policies. Though all governments are responsible for it, the current government has given liberties and distanced it from India," VHP's senior international vice-president Giriraj Kishore said. On whether VHP was opposed to peace talks, Kishore said, "the talks should continue, but our interests should not be forgotten. There would be no gain from continuing talks, if we sell our interests".

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **More CBMs in offing: Natwar** (Press Trust of India)

HONG KONG: Stating that a number of Confidence Building Measures were in the pipeline to propel the peace process with Pakistan, India today nevertheless made it clear that much will depend on Islamabad honouring its commitment to stop cross-border terrorism through "concrete actions". "We sincerely desire to find mutually acceptable solutions to all outstanding issues with Pakistan by carrying forward the current composite dialogue process and by making our quest for abiding peace irreversible," visiting External Affairs Minister K Natwar

Singh... On the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, he said it has created a positive impact on the public opinion on both sides of the LoC.

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **No discussions on specific formula for Kashmir: Hurriyat**

ISLAMABAD: Moderate Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today ruled out discussion on a specific formula with the Pakistan Government on Kashmir, saying the separatist leaders would rather like to discuss with President Pervez Musharraf as to how Islamabad intends to settle the issue. That "Kashmiris must be taken into confidence, as peace talks cannot succeed without their participation," he added. Asked if India would accept any logical solution, also acceptable to the Kashmiris, he said, "we travelled to Islamabad in search of this very fact as well that whether India will accept any solution or not." He said the Kashmiris are the main stakeholders who can in no way be ignored, adding time has come for both the Kashmiris and Pakistanis to evolve a joint strategy for solution of the issue. Meanwhile, giving a twist to India's gesture in allowing Kashmiri separatist leaders to travel to Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf today said it was a recognition of the "disputed status" of Jammu and Kashmir by both the countries.

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **Mufti's approach on Amarnath yatra totally wrong: Farooq**

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today accused his successor Mufti Mohammad Sayeed of adopting a "wrong approach" on the duration of the Amarnath pilgrimage and "unnecessary triggering a controversy". He said Governor Lt Gen (retd) S K Sinha is well aware of the situation in the State. "Doesn't India have enough forces to take care of its people. They are fully capable of protecting the pilgrims and have done so previously as well. "The militants can attack the pilgrims even now also, but we should be fully ready for that," he added. Meanwhile, National Conference chief Omar Abdullah today expressed concern over the spurt in the alleged custodial killings and alleged that the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Government in Jammu and Kashmir has totally failed in protecting the lives and property of the people of the State.

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **4 LPG fitted IEDs seized**

JAMMU, June 4: Army and police today averted a major catastrophe when it recovered four powerful LPG cylinder fitted Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) along with other explosives and ammunition at Talla Pangai in Thanna Mandi area of Rajouri district. DIG Rajouri-Poonch range V K Singh said a joint team of Army and police detected four Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder fitted IEDs from Talla Pangai this morning. The cylinders had been fitted with explosive and detonators. Recoveries were made from a hideout of the militants, he said, adding the militants had planned to plant the IEDs at crowded areas to cause casualties. Other recoveries made from the hideout include two Chinese hand grenades, two Chinese (46) grenades, 50 pistol rounds, one tape recorder, three kg explosives, two UBGL shells, one AK butt, cortex wire and some documents. Meanwhile, a group of 10 Bangladeshi men have been caught trying to sneak into Pakistan in search of jobs by security forces in Samba sector the sources said.

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **4 militants, 2 civilians killed**

SRINAGAR: Six persons including four ultras, one of them a Pakistan national, were killed in separate incidents in Kashmir where alert security forces pre-empted bid by suicide attackers today to storm into their camp and gunned them down. Donning burqas (veil), two militants tried to sneak the camp of 21 Rashtria Rifles at Zachaldara-Handwara, 90 kms from here, but the attack was repulsed and the ultras killed, a police spokesman said here. Officials said the burqa-clad militants were hoping to catch the security forces off-guard by taking advantage of a function being held at the camp. No militant outfit has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. The spokesman said a Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen militant was killed in an encounter with security forces at Asthanpora-Rawalpora in uptown Srinagar last night. A self styled Divisional Commander of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen... was killed in a firefight with security forces... One pistol, two magazines, 45 rounds, three AK magazines were seized...

The Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2005

#### **Geelani held on way to Shopian**

SRINAGAR: Breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani along with five party activists were today arrested by security forces at Kakapora in the south Kashmir district of Pulwama. Hurriyat sources said Mr Geelani and his supporters were on their way to Shopian in Pulwama district to offer condolence to the family of a person allegedly killed by security forces in custody. He was also scheduled to address a public meeting there, they added.

The Indian Express, 5 June 2005

**Hurriyat visit points to disputed status of J-K: Musharraf** (By K.j.m. Varma)

Islamabad: Given a twist to India's gesture in allowing Kashmiri separatist leaders to travel to Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf today said it was a recognition of the "disputed status" of J-K by both the countries. The visit of the separatist leaders had "great political significance because they have not come on Indian passports and visas issued by Pakistan,"... India had expressed reservations over travel by the separatist leaders beyond PoK on special permits but later issued them passports to facilitate it. However, it made it clear that onus for travel by them beyond PoK would be on Pakistan. Describing the visit as "a very important confidence building measure," Musharraf said, "This is a great leap forward in understanding flexibility being shown by the both sides."

The Hindu, 6 June 2005

**Controversy over Amarnath Yatra date finally resolved**

SRINAGAR: The controversy over the duration of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage has finally been set at rest after both Jammu and Kashmir Governor Lt Gen (retd) S.K. Sinha and Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed agreed to start the two-month-long yatra from June 21. The move will enable hundreds of pilgrims from all over the country to pay obeisance at the Amarnath holy cave shrine for a longer duration this year. Both Gen Sinha and Mr Sayeed decided that the pilgrimage from the shorter route of Baltal to the holy cave shrine will commence on June 21 without registration or advance booking. The controversy had dragged on for some months now. While the Governor had been advocating for two month-long pilgrimage every year for greater satisfaction of yatis and to help give boost to the local economy, the Chief Minister had stressed the need for limiting the duration of the yatra to one month only due to security concerns.

The Indian Express, 6 June 2005

**State receives Rs 314 cr under APDRP for power sector**

Srinagar: The State government has received an amount of over Rs 314 crore for improvement, modernization and upgradation of power system in the state under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP). The total project cost approved is of the order of Rs 1,100 crores. The newly-commissioned receiving station has a capacity of 6.3 MVA constructed at a cost of Rs 104.98 lakhs is expected to provide power supply to 32 villages of Singhpora and Dever areas of tehsil Pattan. The Minister said that Rs 19.60 crores have been incurred upto March 2005 for improving the power system in the state. Besides, several receiving & grid stations, transmission lines and sub-stations were improved and said that power scenario in the state will received tremendous fillip within next three years.

The Indian Express, 6 June 2005

**3 Al-Badr men among 6 killed in Valley**

Srinagar: SIX persons, including three militants, were killed in separate incidents in the Valley since Saturday evening. Three militants of Pakistan-based Al-Badr militant outfit were killed in an encounter with a joint party of the police and security forces in the frontier district of Kupwara. Sources in the police said that the joint team, on a tip-off, laid seige to the Awatkul forest area in Kupwara district. As the police and security forces started the combing operation, they came under heavy fire. The security forces retaliated, killing three militants. Saying that the slain militants belonged to the Al-Badr outfit, the police claimed to have recovered two AK rifles, 12 magazines, six hand grenades, two UBGL grenades, four sacks and 300 rounds of ammunition from their possession.

The Indian Express, 6 June 2005

**Five militants killed, SPO injured in Rajouri**

Jammu: The state police today achieved a major success when they killed five militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad including their commander in Rajouri district today. A special police official was injured in the exchange of fire. The slain militants have been identified as JeM commander Shah ji, his bodyguard Bilal and Manaaz Ali - a resident of Darhal. An identity card of International Public School, Darhal, was recovered from Manaaz's possession. Shahji was a dreaded name in Rajouri district and he had been active in Darhal-Thanamandi belt for quite sometime. Five AK rifles, two radio sets and some incriminating documents were recovered from the encounter site. Meanwhile, security forces and the police have launched a joint combat operation at Gandoh in Doda district to track down militants who allegedly killed a civilian, Atta Mohammad.

The Indian Express, 6 June 2005

**Malik skips meeting with Pak PM** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: JKLF chairman Yasin Malik tonight kept away from a marathon meeting between visiting Kashmiri separatist leaders and Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz here, two days after he criticised Kashmiri leaders in this country for "romanticising" militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The two-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's

residence was attended by Hurriyat conference chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq and other separatist leaders. On Friday, Malik had blamed the leaders of Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) for "romanticising" militancy. As for the talks between Aziz and separatist leaders, they followed the familiar line - Kashmiris should be involved in talks between India and Pakistan. Talking to mediapersons, Farooq said Aziz has assured that Pakistan would ensure the participation of Hurriyat leaders as "genuine" representatives in the talks.

The Daily Times, 6 June 2005

#### **APHC bothered by back channel Indo-Pak talks**

ISLAMABAD: The leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Sunday observed that non-political elements were behind every important decision in the ongoing peace process. Speaking at a luncheon hosted in their honour by PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, the APHC leaders complained that most of the Kashmiri leaders had no role in confidence building measures (CBMs) and that Kashmiris felt humiliated when they knew about CBMs through the media. They also observed that both India and Pakistan did not have a precise roadmap for Kashmir and reiterated that Kashmiris must be involved in the peace process as primary stakeholders in the dispute. Thanking Pakistan for its continued support to the freedom struggle, APHC Chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, said that India had realised that the rights of Kashmiri people could not be suppressed by force.

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

#### **Junior doctors go on indefinite strike**

Jammu: THE emergency and other services got partially paralysed at Government Medical College and Hospital here today as junior doctors went on indefinite strike from today in protest against disparity in the monthly stipend. According to sources, in order to assess the situation, a high level meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Vijay Gupta, Principal, GMCH, was held and it was decided to issue notice to the in-service Post-Graduate doctors, who have joined strike. Sources said that the usual round of doctors to different wards started late today and emergency and OPD work too suffered due to the strike. They said that junior doctors comprise the major chunk and mostly they handle most of the jobs. However, junior doctors... have been demanding that their stipend should be at par with the junior doctors at Sher-E-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, who get almost double the amount.

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

#### **Govt takes note of water scarcity** (By Ishfaq Naseem)

Jammu: The state government has taken a serious note of the extension of the water supply schemes meant exclusively for Kashmiri migrants to the people living adjacent to the camps. Sources said that at a recent meeting which was chaired by Revenue Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, it was noted that the extension of water supply schemes meant for Kashmiri migrants to the local population had resulted in scarcity of water at the camps. The water supply schemes were completed recently at a cost of Rs 62.67 lakh, Rs 55 lakh and Rs 76 lakh in Nagrota, Mishriwala and Purkhoo block A and B camps respectively. "Water is being shared on a reciprocal basis and the camp dwellers are not facing any grave problem." Chief Engineer, PHE, K K Puri said...

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

#### **3 militants killed in Valley, villager also falls to bullets**

Srinagar: THREE militants were killed in a fierce encounter with soldiers of the Rashtriya Rifles at Garoora in Bandipore, north Kashmir. Meanwhile, protests rocked the central district of Budgam over the accidental killing of a mentally-challenged villager. Police sources said the Rashtriya Rifles, on a tip off about militant presence, laid a siege around the forest area at Garoora... In the encounter that lasted for several hours, three militants were killed. The police have identified them as... a Pakistani national [who]... owed allegiance to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit... belonged to the largest indigenous militant outfit - Hizbul Mujahideen. Another militant was killed in the encounter which began yesterday at Awatkul Kupwara. Also, three militants were killed in an encounter yesterday. All of them owed allegiance to the Pakistan-based Al Badr Mujahideen, the police said. Meanwhile, protests rocked the Beerwah town of the central Kashmir district Budgam over the mistaken killing of a 60-year-old mentally-challenged villager during an Army siege.

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat leaders visit Lahore** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: The visiting Kashmiri separatist leaders today went on a sightseeing tour of Lahore and interacted with the civil society and political leaders ahead of their meeting with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf likely to take place tomorrow. On arrival at the Lahore airport, the Mirwaiz told reporters the Kashmiri leaders were keenly awaiting their meeting with Musharraf from whom they want to hear the future course of the India-Pak process and his promise to make it triangular involving, India, Pakistan and Kashmiris. Meanwhile, several

leaders of overseas kashmiri groups have been converging in Islamabad to join talks with Farooq and other leaders.

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

**Every Kashmiri is not a militant: DGP Sharma**

Srinagar: J-K Director General of Police Gopal Sharma today said that every Kashmiri was not a militant and all should not be suspected once they went out for studies or employment. He said there might be some odd cases where people had been found involved, but the police duty was to see that people were not unnecessarily harassed. He told the officers from different states, "Every Kashmiri is not a militant." The J-K DGP asked heads of police across the country to spread a good word about the situation in Kashmir. Earlier, Minister of State for Home A.R. Veeri said there were misconceptions about the state and it was important to clear them.

The Daily Times, 7 June 2005

**No Kashmir solution without Geelani: Hizb** (By Mohammad Imran)

ISLAMABAD: Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, acting chairman of the All Parties Huriyat Conference (APHC), and Yasin Malik, the chairman of his own faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), met Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) Supreme Commander Syed Salahuddin separately in Islamabad late on Sunday. Sources privy to the meeting told Daily Times that the HM supreme commander made it clear to Mirwaiz and Malik that if Syed Ali Shah Geelani was not included in the peace process, the Hizb would not accept any solution of the Kashmir issue. Sources added that... they agreed with the HM leader to continue armed and political struggle until a resolution to the Kashmir was found.

The Daily Times, 7 June 2005

**LoC can't be border: APHC**

LAHORE: Visiting All Parties Huriyat Conference (APHC) leaders have said that the independence of Kashmir was the only way to peace, which could not be achieved without the involvement of Kashmiris in the dialogue between Pakistan and India. They also said that the Line of Control dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan would not be accepted. "We have never accepted the Line of Control as international border and will never do so," the APHC leaders added.

The Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2005

**Hel 'commander' among 5 militants gunned down**

JAMMU: Army, police and CRPF today gunned down five militants including a Hizb-e-Islami 'divisional commander' Abu Maviya in three separate encounters in Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur districts. Maviya was involved in a series of killings including attempt on the life of former DIG Rajouri-Poonch range S M Sahai on December 18, 2003 in which two police personnel were killed. All three slain militants were Pakistanis, official sources said, adding a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession... Meanwhile, the DIG Rajouri-Poonch range said five militants including Jaish-e-Mohammed 'commander' Shah Ji, who were gunned down by Army and police at Kalaal Kas in Jamola area of Rajouri district last night...

The Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2005

**8 militants, civilian killed**

SRINAGAR: Stepping up anti-militant drive, security forces shot dead eight ultras in separate encounters in Kashmir during the past 24 hours, where an elderly person fell to security forces' bullets in an incident of mistaken identity, Police and Defence spokesmen said here today. A Defence spokesman said four militants were killed in a fierce gunbattle, lasting nearly five hours... While three militants were killed in the initial fight which broke out at around 9 am during house-to-house searches, another fell to the bullets around 2 pm, the spokesman said. Four more militants of Al-Badr outfit were killed in an encounter during search operations at Awatkul in Kupwara district yesterday.

The Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2005

**3 of family killed after militant's surrender**

JAMMU: Three members of a family were gunned down by the militants within five hours of the surrender of a militant, who was part of the family, before security forces in Gool area of Ramban police district today. Official sources said two militants identified as Aashiq Ali and Farooq Ahmed surrendered before security forces at 10 am in Gool today. At 3 pm, the militants struck in the house of Aashiq Ali at Seripora, Gool and gunned down his father Bashir Ahmed, a village chowkidar, mother and brother. The militants escaped after the killings. Sources suspected the hand of Aashiq Ali's colleagues behind the killings.

The Hindu, 8 June 2005

**"Pak can't force India to include separatists in J-K talks"** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Pakistan on Tuesday made it clear to visiting separatist Kashmiri leaders that it cannot force India to include them in the dialogue process to resolve the Kashmir issue and said any solution to the problem has to be acceptable to the two countries as well as Kashmiris. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf... assured the separatist leaders that Pakistan would continue to consult the "true representatives" of Kashmiri people before taking any major Kashmir-related measures...

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**Abortive bid to attack Cong leader's house**

Srinagar: Militants today made an abortive bid to attack the house of a Congress leader here but the grenade hurled by them landed in the compound of an adjacent house and no one was hurt. "An explosive was hurled at my residence this morning, but it landed in the compound of the adjacent house of a senior government officer," Congress committee senior vice-president and legislator Abdul Gani Vakil told here.

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**Home Minister makes a flying trip**

Jammu: Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil today visited Jammu where he inspected Army equipment at the Tiger Infantry Division headquarters. Sources disclosed that Patil inspected some high-tech equipment used for anti-terrorist operations. They added that these equipment might be inducted into the Army in J&K. The equipment used mainly in counter-insurgency operations were on display. Sources said this was an inspection visit and the Union Home Minister stayed in Jammu for only two hours before flying back to Delhi. Director generals from various para-military forces, including CISF, ITBP, NSG, SSB and CRP, were also present.

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**Five killed in Valley; car bomb diffused in city**

Srinagar: Two persons were killed in violent incidents in the Valley since Monday evening, even as the police averted a major tragedy by defusing a car bomb in a busy city area. The police said a militant was killed in an encounter with security forces at Awantipora in south Kashmir. In another incident, the police said they caught a suspected militant from Souchipora Mattan in Anantnag. The police claimed that they recovered four UBGL grenades and four detonators from him. Meanwhile, the police today averted a major tragedy by defusing a car bomb planted by suspected militants at Karan Nagar in the city. The police said had the bomb exploded, it would have caused a major damage as the car was parked in a residential area.

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**J&K is a disputed territory, trilateral issue: Babu Singh**

Jammu: Associate Congress member and Minister of state for Finance in the Mufti-led coalition government Babu Singh today kicked up a controversy when he described Jammu and Kashmir as "disputed territory" and favoured that it should be made a federal state with its foreign and defence affairs under joint control of India and Pakistan. Addressing a jam-packed press conference at Press Club here today, Singh said these were his "individual views" and the party (Congress) has nothing to do with it. Contrary to his party's stand, he also said that Jammu and Kashmir was a trilateral issue between the people of India, Pakistan and J&K. He also demanded from the Government of India that it should announce unilateral internal ceasefire in J&K. He demanded that there should be a joint conference without any pre-conditions and India, Pakistan, people of J&K and PoK should discuss a roadmap which is acceptable to all concerned.

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**17 Bangladeshis arrested near Indo-Pak border** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: Security forces today arrested 17 Bangladeshi nationals near the Indo-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir. A group of 17 Bangladeshis were trying to cross the border when they were intercepted and arrested near Indug village in Ramgarh sub-sector of Jammu district early today, officials said. Nothing incriminating was found on the group, they said adding that they were carrying around Rs 1,000 in Indian currency.

The Indian Express, 8 June 2005

**Pakistan says no outside pressure for resolution of Kashmir** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Asserting that there was no "outside" pressure or roadmap for resolution of the Kashmir issue, Pakistan today said the visit of moderate Kashmiri separatists was aimed at finding a settlement to the issue and not bypassing the UN resolution on it. Refuting the charge of hardline Hurriyat leader Sayed Ali Shah Geelani, who had turned down Pakistan's invitation to visit the country, foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said, "Pakistan will not compromise on its basic stand on Kashmir. There is no outside pressure or roadmap on the solution." Geelani had said Pakistan was yielding to pressure from United States to change its stand on the

Kashmir issue. Pakistan was aware that different opinions existed among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Jilani claimed...

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **Musharraf, Kasuri, Salahuddin meet Hurriyat leaders**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan today made it clear to visiting separatist Kashmiri leaders that it cannot force India to include them in the dialogue process to resolve the Kashmir issue and said any solution to the problem has to be acceptable to the two countries as well as Kashmiris. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who held a two-hour dinner meeting here with a team of separatist leaders from Kashmir headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, said a solution to Kashmir issue has to be acceptable to India, Pakistan and Kashmiris. He assured the separatist leaders that Pakistan would continue to consult the "true representatives" of Kashmiri people... The Pakistan President said status quo on Kashmir was "unacceptable" to his country and there has to be forward movement so that legitimate aspirations of Kashmiri people were realised. The Hurriyat leaders expressed their full confidence in the efforts made by Musharraf in "projecting the Kashmir cause".

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **Two killed, BSNL official kidnapped**

SRINAGAR: Even as security forces today killed a militant in Awantipore area, militants killed a civilian. While militants carried out a grenade attack on the residence of a Congress leader at Jawahar Nagar and Police defused a massive IED in Karan Nagar in the capital city. Sources said that security forces claimed to have killed a local militant of Hizbul Mujahideen... in an encounter at Larmoo Poshwan, in Awantipore area early this morning. Here in the capital city, unidentified militants managed to reach the high security zone of Jawahar Nagar. They lobbed a hand grenade on Government Quarter No: J-38, the official residence of the Congress MLC and vice president of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee Abdul Gani Vakil. Unidentified gunmen abducted a BSNL official from his residence in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir last night, officials said today.

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **PM to inaugurate Sindhu Darshan**

JAMMU: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will lay the foundation stone of two hydel projects in Ladakh and fly to Kargil and Siachen and meet the soldiers there during his two day visit to the region beginning June 11. Giving details of the PM's visit, official sources said, Singh would arrive in Leh in the morning on June 11 and fly to Kargil, where he is scheduled to lay the foundation stone of Chutak Hydel Power Project. He would then return to Leh, where he is to lay the foundation stone of Alchi Hydel Power Project and briefly address the public, they said. The next day, the PM is scheduled to inaugurate the 3-day Sindhu Darshan Festival in Leh before flying to the world's highest battlefield in Siachen. Singh is likely to interact with the top Army and security officials during his visit to Leh and Kargil and meet some public delegations.

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **Dhillon to be new GOC 15 Corps**

SRINAGAR: Lt Gen S S Dhillon will be the new General Officer in Commanding (GoC) 15 corps based in Kashmir, replacing Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma, defence sources said today. Gen Dhillon will take over from Gen Sharma as the Corps Commander on June 13, the sources said. Jammu and Kashmir has three Corps - 14 Corps looking after Ladakh Division, 15 Corps based in Kashmir and 16 Corps in Jammu. At a banquet in honour of the outgoing Army Commander here last night, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed lauded Gen Sharma for carrying forward the peace process in the State. Speaking on the occasion, Gen Sharma thanked the people and the State Government for giving him support and co-operation.

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **Patil reviews JK situation**

JAMMU: To review security scenario of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister, Shivraj Patil who arrived here today, convened a meeting of the senior officers of the Army and security forces. Officers of the Army, Border Security Forces (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force attended the meeting which was held at Army cantonment this morning. Union Home Minister reviewed security scenario and discussed some matters with the officers, informed sources told the EXCELSIOR. Deputy Chief Minister, Mangat Ram Sharma, who was accompanying the Union Home Minister, refused to give details of the meetings as, according to him, "only security related matters were discussed in the meeting".

The Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2005

### **Unrest fading away, paradise regaining glory: Governor**

Srinagar: Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd) S K Sinha today said that the era of unrest is fading away in Kashmir and the paradise is getting restored with determined preference for peace and normalcy by the people. Kashmir has a

unique tradition of Kashmiriyat embedded in liberal Sufi Islam which is unparalleled in the world, the Governor said while eulogizing the role of locals in keeping aloft the flag of secularism even during most testing times. He said that nowhere in the world must be such a commonality in way of life, culture and language between various communities as in Kashmir.

The Hindu, 9 June 2005

**Time to move beyond U.N. resolutions: Hurriyat** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: The time has come to move beyond United Nations Resolutions on Kashmir as the world body failed to implement them for 57 years, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, leader of the visiting Hurriyat delegation, said here on Wednesday. Mr. Farooq said the Hurriyat leaders were "very satisfied" with the outcome of their meeting with Gen. Musharraf. He said Gen. Musharraf endorsed the Hurriyat's approach of holding separate talks with Pakistan and India and assured them complete support. Mr. Farooq said the Hurriyat leaders discussed a few specific proposals with Gen. Musharraf but was not willing to elaborate. The Hurriyat leader said the delegation in the next phase would visit New Delhi for talks with the Indian Government. The Hurriyat would like to carry forward the process of talks with Pakistan and India in the hope that an acceptable solution would emerge.

The Indian Express, 9 June 2005

**Hurriyat ready to ditch plebiscite call** (Reuters)

Islamabad: Hurriyat leaders said on Wednesday they would ditch demands for a plebiscite on the future of their homeland if India sets aside a 33-year-old agreement with Pakistan on the line dividing Kashmir. Interviewed in the Pakistani capital where they met Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday, two of the youngest and most influential separatist leaders said they were ready to drop a demand for India to honour U.N. resolutions passed between 1948 and 1949 for a plebiscite in Kashmir. "I think it is time to look beyond the U.N. resolutions, look at other possibilities," Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, chairman of a moderate faction in the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, told Reuters. Farooq and Lone said that while past Pakistani governments had used the Kashmir conflict for their own aims, they were convinced Musharraf was sincere in seeking a solution acceptable to Kashmiris.

The Indian Express, 9 June 2005

**Major, militant commander killed in gun battle**

Jammu: AN Army Major and an area commander of militant outfit, Harkat-i-Islami, were killed and another security force personnel injured in a gun battle at Rajouri. An improvised explosive devise (IED) was also defused outside a college in Doda today. The gunfight occurred between militants and the Army at Teeru in Kalakote in which Maj Jojy Josephy fell to bullets. Another personnel of the security force was injured. The area commander of Harket-i-Islami has been identified as Zulfikar. One AK 56 rifle, AK 47 magazines and 15 Chinese grenades were recovered from the site. Elsewhere in Doda, an improvised explosive devise which was reportedly planted outside a college was defused by security forces.

The Indian Express, 9 June 2005

**India downplays visit of Hurriyat leaders to Islamabad** (Press Trust of India)

New Delhi: India on Wednesday sought to downplay the visit of Hurriyat leaders to Islamabad and their meetings with Pakistani leadership, saying this reflected a degree of confidence in the government that it could take a 'liberal' view of such activities. Official sources said New Delhi never had problems with the Hurriyat meeting Pakistani leaders. The sources said India had conveyed to Pakistan that while agreeing to start the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service there was a clear understanding that the passengers would be travelling only within the limits of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The sources said with the Hurriyat visiting Islamabad, there has been a departure by Pakistan from this understanding and could raise questions on the sanctity of other understandings arrived at by both sides.

The Indian Express, 9 June 2005

**Jammu security beefed up after Hizb threat** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: The finding of posters of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen threatening to attack the famous Raghunath temple and eliminate VHP and BJP leaders has prompted the police to heighten security in Jammu city. Two bundles of posters, printed in Urdu, threatening to eliminate former Union Minister of State for Defence Chaman Lal Gupta, state BJP president Nirmal Singh and state VHP chief Rama Kant Dubey were found in Shalimar area on Tuesday, they said. The posters also threatened to carry out an attack on the famous Raghunath temple complex.

The Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2005

**UN resolutions have failed: Hurriyat**

ISLAMABAD: In a significant statement, moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference today said that the UN

resolutions on Kashmir have failed to resolve the issue and the time has come to explore other options. Apparently taking a dig at his opponent and hardline Hurriyat leader Sayed Shah Ali Geelani, who is studiously advocating a solution to the Kashmir problem based on the UN resolutions, Farooq said those who are advocating this should look at Palestine and Iraq, where the UN has failed besides Kashmir. While the UN resolutions are there, one should look beyond and explore other possibilities, he added. The Hurriyat leader said he and his colleagues were deeply impressed by Musharraf's commitment to resolve Kashmir issue and "endorsed" his approach. He also expressed satisfaction about the ongoing talks between India and Pakistan for achieving a solution to the Kashmir issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2005

**Peerzada summons Babu Singh** (By Dinesh Manhotra)

JAMMU: Taking serious note of the 'controversial' statement of Minister of State for Finance, Babu Singh, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Peerzada Mohammed Sayed summoned the Minister this evening at Srinagar and asked him to clear his stand on this issue. Babu Singh's statement that 'Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory, trilateral issue' triggered a controversy within Congress party as the party has been put to an embarrassing position. Although Peerzada maintained guarded silence over what action will be taken against Babu Singh, he admitted that it was very serious matter. The PCC chief said that stand of his party was very clear on solution of Kashmir problem.

The Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2005

**Major, Jaish commander killed in Kalakote**

RAJOURI: An Army Major and a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) 'commander' were killed and two Army jawans including a Company Havildar Major (CHM) were injured in an encounter at Katari Gala in Gadyok area of Dharamshal police station of Kalakote tehsil this morning. The Army personnel had a face-to-face encounter with the militants at about 10 am. Major Joji Joseph, who was leading one of the Army team, immediately opened firing killing one of the militants. However, weapon of the slain militant fell down leading to firing of a burst, which hit Major Joseph, leading to his death on spot. Two other Army jawans were injured in firing by the second militant, who managed to escape into a surrounding forest area. The militant killed in today's operation has been identified as Zulfikar, an 'area commander' of Jaish-e-Mohammed. He was also believed to be a Pakistani.

The Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2005

**Lashkar commander, civilian killed**

SRINAGAR: Security forces have killed a Pakistani commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba in Sumbal area even as suspected militants have beheaded a civilian in Handwara area since last evening. Informed sources said that troops of Rashtriya Rifles 13th Bn raided a militant hideout at Ajas in Sumbal-Bandipore belt in north Kashmir late last night. During the operation an encounter took place between the militants and security forces. One militant got killed. He was identified as Abu Moosa of Dhera Ismail Khan, Pakistan. Officials claimed that he was a "divisional commander" with Lashkar-e-Toiba.

The Daily Times, 9 June 2005

**No Kashmir division on religious grounds** (By Shahzad Raza and Mohammad Imran)

Exclusive interview

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has agreed not to demand Kashmir's division on religious grounds. APHC leaders had expressed their trust in President Pervez Musharraf's approach towards Kashmir, but had demanded more time to think over his proposal of demilitarising Kashmir after dividing it into seven separate regions, he added. APHC leaders had made it clear to President Musharraf that they would never accept a status quo on Kashmir or the Line of Control (LoC) as a permanent border, he said. About whether a majority of Kashmiris still wanted an affiliation with Pakistan, he said his party wished for the unification of Kashmir and Pakistan. About whether excluding jihadis would negatively impact the dialogue process, he said if Kashmiris wanted to play an active role in resolving the dispute, they must rise above party politics.

The Daily Times, 9 June 2005

**APHC leaders' visit: Pakistan flouted deal, says India** (By Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: India said on Wednesday that Pakistan had departed from the "understanding" on the permit system on Kashmir bus service by allowing Hurriyat leaders to travel to Islamabad without stamping their passports. "It could raise questions on the sanctity of other understandings between both sides," official sources said. Sources said India had conveyed to Pakistan that while agreeing to start the bus service there was a clear understanding that the passengers would be travelling only within the limits of Jammu and Kashmir. Sources said it was Pakistan which insisted on this arrangement while India had proposed letting people travel by passports and visas to visit other cities.

The Hindu, 10 June 2005

**Erase artificial lines dividing Kashmir, says Hurriyat leader** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: A day after the announcement that Kashmiris should look beyond the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, leader of the visiting Hurriyat delegation, said on Thursday efforts should be made to "erase" the artificial lines dividing Kashmir. Mr. Farooq and the delegation, which is in Karachi on a two-day visit, told journalists that they were trying to "erase artificial lines". He said that when he talked about Kashmir, he meant the whole territory of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed in 1947. At the end of the week-long visit of the Hurriyat to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, it is increasingly evident that barring the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader, Yasin Malik, the contingent is on the same wavelength as Gen. Musharraf.

The Hindu, 10 June 2005

**Army Chief rules out ceasefire with militants** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: The Chief of the Army Staff on Thursday ruled out any ceasefire with militants, but said the Army was ready to encourage those willing to lay down arms. When asked whether a ceasefire was possible in the near future, he said: "There is no such idea. The Army is ready to help Kashmiri youths who want to shun violence." He also indicated that there was no immediate possibility of reduction in troops as the militant attacks had not stopped. Gen. Singh said local militants would be rehabilitated if they surrendered but those who continue to operate "will be dealt with firmly." Commending the people of Kashmir for supporting the ongoing peace process, Gen. Singh said the launch of the bus service across the Line of Control was the biggest confidence building measure and the change in the minds and hearts of people was visible.

The Indian Express, 10 June 2005

**Jammu wrapped in religious fervour**

Jammu: IT'S religiosity once again has gripped Jammu in religious fervour, and devotees with piety thronging the city of temples for listening to the discourses by Saint Asa Ram Bapuji on the philosophy of Shrimad Bhagwat Gita. This and the arrangements being made for the ensuing Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage have virtually made the winter capital a spiritual hub. Apprising about various decisions taken during the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner apprised that for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra, 26 lodging locations had been identified in Jammu city this year for the stay of pilgrims where adequate security would be provided to Yatris.

The Indian Express, 10 June 2005

**Now Advani a hero in Valley**

Srinagar: THE resignation of L K Advani from post of BJP president over the controversy of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, has completely changed the common Kashmiri's perception about the BJP leader who was otherwise considered a hardliner. "Earlier, I used to think Advani was the topmost hard-line leader of the BJP, who never showed any flexibility on the Kashmir issue and problems related to Muslim," says Hilal Ahmad, a student pursuing his Post graduation in Environmental Sciences. "I was surprised when he quit, and that too to stand by his remark on a Pakistani leader," he says. "In my opinion, L K Advani is a changed man and now wants to be known as a national leader," he says.

The Indian Express, 10 June 2005

**Army assures help to those ready to quit militancy** (Press Trust of India)

Srinagar: The Army today assured all help to Kashmiri militants ready to shun the path of violence but warned of an "iron fist" to deal with foreign ultras operating in Jammu and Kashmir. "Ninety-nine per cent of the population of Kashmir are innocent. The one per cent who have taken the arms will be extended all possible help if they shun the gun," Chief of Army staff general J J Singh told reporters here today. He dismissed media reports suggesting internal ceasefire in the state saying, "there is no such proposal". On infiltration from across the border, the Army Chief said at least one attempt to sneak into the state was being made every week but troops have scuttled them.

The Daily Times, 10 June 2005

**JKLF factions unite**

ISLAMABAD: Factions of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) headed by Amanullah Khan and Yasin Malik have decided to unite and form a seven-member committee to finalise modalities and the structure of the new JKLF, Altaf Hussain Qadri, JKLF (Yasin Malik) representative, told Daily Times on Thursday. He said the meeting between both factions - lasting several hours - decided to unite the JKLF. About complaints discussed during the meeting, he said both factions had no complaints against each other. The first meeting of the seven-member reconciliation committee would be held in Mirpur in Azad Jammu and Kashmir with Yasin Malik and Amanullah Khan participating, he said.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

**PM's 3 day visit to Leh, Siachen begins today**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will lay the foundation stone of two hydroelectric projects in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir on June 11, Power Minister P M Sayeed said today. The two projects along with a transmission project in Bihar have received the approval of Public Investment Board (PIB). The three projects would cost a total of Rs 5,050 crore. The 45 mw Minoo Bazgo hydel project in Leh and 44 mw Chutak Hydel project in Kargil would be built at a cost of Rs 629.65 crore and Rs 631.72 crore respectively. Dr Singh will be the first Prime Minister to visit the Siachen glacier, the scene of frequent exchange of fire between the troops of India and Pakistan until the two countries declared a cease-fire along the Line of Control in 2003. The proposed 45 mw Nimoo Bazgo project in Leh is a run-of-the-river scheme located on river Indus. The project site is located near village Alchi and is about 70 km from Leh by road. The second project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kargil district, also in the Ladakh region, will have a generation capacity of 44 mw.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

#### **6 militants, soldier killed in Keran**

SRINAGAR: In a major operation, security forces have wiped out a group of six militants near LoC in Keran sector while losing one soldier today. Meanwhile, suspected militants have torched the residential house of a ruling PDP's MLA, Mohammad Khalil Bandh, at Bandarpora in Pulwama. According to sources, the slain militants were part of a 10-member group of infiltrators who had crossed the LoC and had been roaming about in a vast area from Furkian to Kundian. Meanwhile, militants targeted a patrol party with an IED blast at Yaripora in Kulgam area. While the officials maintained that there was no damage, a spokesman of Hizbul Mujahideen claimed that two soldiers, including a Subedar, were killed in the explosion. Meanwhile, sources said that late last night suspected militants set on fire the residential house of PDP's Pulwama MLA, Mohammad Khalil Bandh, at Bandarpora.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat favours division of Kashmir on geographical grounds**

ISLAMABAD: Endorsing Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's assertion that religion cannot be the basis for resolving Kashmir issue, moderate Hurriyat faction has said it favoured division of Kashmir on "geographical grounds" to settle the problem. "We want Kashmir to be divided on geographical grounds. We don't want Kashmir to lose its identity and integration. We don't want to further separate Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims," Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said in an interview to 'Daily Times' newspaper. Last month, Musharraf told a conference of South Asian Parliamentarians here that "we do understand the Indian sensitivities of their secular credentials therefore it (solution to Kashmir issue) cannot be on any religious basis.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

#### **Two ultras killed in Gool**

JAMMU: Army and police today gunned down two Hizbul Mujahideen militants in a fierce gun-battle at Kandori nullah in Gulabgarh area of Mahore in Reasi police district while security forces destroyed two hideouts of the militants in Chingus area of Rajouri district. Both the militants were affiliated with the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. While Roshan Din was active in militancy since 1998, Bahar Din was operating since 2001. Duo were involved in a series of militant activities in Mahore-Gool-Gulabgarh belt for the past sometime. They were also instrumental in planting Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and throwing grenades at public places and security forces vehicles. Recoveries made from the possession of slain militants include two AK rifles, two hand grenades, one wireless set, five AK magazines and 110 rounds, one CITI Bank credit card (expired 2002) and one ICICI card (expired February 2005). In Rajouri, Army and police destroyed a hideout of the militants at Keri Androt in Chingus area this morning.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

#### **WB expert on Baglihar begins talks** (Press Trust of India)

LONDON: The World Bank appointed neutral expert to resolve Indo-Pak dispute over Baglihar hydro-power project in Jammu and Kashmir today began talks with officials of the two countries in Paris. Neutral expert Raymond Laffite held extensive discussions with the delegation of the two countries to understand their points of view over the disputed 450 mw project being constructed over river Chenab in Doda district. Indian officials attending the two-day talks described the discussions as "very positive." Water Resources Secretary J Harinarayan is leading a delegation of officials and eminent lawyers who presented India's case before Laffite. Pakistan has been saying that the design of the Baglihar project violates the Indus Water Treaty, a charge India has denied.

The Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2005

#### **'No threat to tourists in Valley'** (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI: A group of British tour operators, who spent a week in Jammu and Kashmir, has asked the British Government to "remove or tone down" its travel advisory for its citizens on visits to the State saying that tourists in

the Valley are not threatened in any way. In a recent letter to the British High Commissioner here, the delegation of British tour operators said during its familiarisation tour of the Valley last month, the operators found "tourist centres flooded with domestic and some foreign tourists". The tour operators who met Chief Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed and other ministers and officials and travelled to Gulmarg and Pahalgam, said they found that the Government had made "adequate arrangements for general security of tourists in the Valley". In its travel advice, the British Government has "strongly" advised against travel to Kashmir due to militant violence and warned British travellers that "further attacks are possible".

The Daily Times, 11 June 2005

#### **Mirwaiz wants Kashmiri militants to join political mainstream**

KARACHI: A senior moderate separatist leader from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Friday called on militants fighting India's rule in the Indian-held Kashmir to join the political mainstream. "Now the time has come when political and militant wings sit together and formulate a strategy for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute," Mirwaiz Omar Farooq told foreign journalists in Karachi. He also offered to give militant groups representation in Hurriyat. He said the APHC welcomes the confidence building measures (CBMs) initiated by India and Pakistan but the real CBM would be solution of the Kashmir dispute according to the wishes of the Kashmiris.

The Daily Times, 11 June 2005

#### **Kashmir not an integral part, Congress minister**

ISLAMABAD: In held Kashmir, Congress Finance Minister Babu Singh has said that on the basis of ground realities, Kashmir is not an integral part of India. "If it is an integral part, why did our government send the Hurriyat Conference leaders to Pakistan?" Babu Singh told BBC Radio.

The Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2005

#### **Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh to benefit from modernisation: PM**

LEH: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today promised that Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will be the beneficiary of the process of modernisation of infrastructure across the country to ensure emotional and economic integration of the people from the Bay of Bengal to the Himalayas. Addressing a function here where he renamed the Leh airport as 'Kushok Bakula Rimpoche Airport,' Dr Singh assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the Centre would make all-out efforts for the development of the State including development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism. He said the Centre would also invest in development of social infrastructure, better schools and hospitals and urban facilities in the state. He also hoped that modernisation of the Leh airport would bring more tourists, investors, schools and men of peace and piety to this remote corner of the country.

The Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2005

#### **Mufti's rule worst period in history of J&K: Omar**

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) chief Omar Abdullah today launched a scathing attack on the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Government describing about two and a half years of its rule as the "worst period in the history of the State," reports UNI. He also credited the NC for the ongoing peace talks between India and Pakistan and said the dialogue initiated by the two countries was part of the roadmap given by the party leadership about 60 years ago. Mr Abdullah said "bloodshed, violence, custodial killings and violations of human rights" are the order of the day in the PDP-led coalition Government in the State. The NC chief claimed that corruption was rampant during the present regime and the unemployment problem has grown manifold in its three years of rule. : Omar Abdullah, also launched a scathing attack on the separatist Hurriyat Conference leadership, currently on Pakistan visit, while remarking that they are "insensitive" towards the people of Kashmir. The NC chief blamed the Hurriyat leadership for "betrayal" and adopting "double standards".

The Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat urges militants to join political mainstream**

KARACHI: The moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference today called on militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir to join political mainstream. "Now the time has come when political and militant wings sit together and formulate a strategy for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute," Mirwaiz Umer Farooq told foreign journalists in the Pakistani port city of Karachi. "At this juncture, political leadership should play a leading role with the support and consensus of militant leadership in finding a just solution to the Kashmir problem," Farooq said.

The Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2005

#### **Imambara gutted, 6 militants killed**

SRINAGAR: A place of worship of the Shia Muslim community gutted in a devastating blaze as security forces wiped out a group of four militants in Bijbehara-Pahalgam belt of Anantnag in the Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad

Sayeed's Pahalgam constituency in south Kashmir this evening. Meanwhile, two militants got killed in another military operation in Bandipore area of north Kashmir. Officials were certain that the slain militants belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammad. Meanwhile, informed sources in north Kashmir said that over another specific information, security forces and Police swooped on a militant hideout at Turkapora in Bandipore area of Baramulla district late this afternoon. During the search operation, troops gunned down one unidentified militant while another managed to escape.

The Daily Excelsior, 11 Juen 2005

#### **Geelani hits out at moderate leaders**

SRINAGAR: Breakway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani today took a dig at the moderate separatist leaders for claiming that their visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has forced "India and Pakistan to accept the people of Jammu and Kashmir as the third party to the dispute". "It is an established fact that India cannot be pressurised to include the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing dialogue process with Pakistan," Mr Geelani said in a public meeting at Anantnag. He expressed surprise over the statements of the moderate Hurriyat and other separatist leaders that their visit to Pakistan and PoK has forced the two countries to accept the people of the State as the "third party to the dispute". Mr Geelani said Army chief J J Singh's recent statement that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India has rubbished all the claims of those separatist leaders who are on visit to Pakistan.

The Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2005

#### **Governor lauds Army for winning hearts of people**

SRINAGAR: Governor Lt. General (Retd) S K Sinha has lauded the Army's commitment to bring about peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir by firmly combating militancy and winning over the hearts and minds of people through Operation Sadhbavna. The Governor made a particular mention of development effort being supplemented by the Army and said Civil-Army liaison has been appreciable in the border State that has helped in steering out of the difficult phase of militancy. He said the Army has been assisting the civil administration in hour of need with a sense of determination and referred to its role during the February snow-tsunami. He exuded confidence that peace and complete normalcy will return soon in Valley.

The Indian Express, 11 June 2005

#### **Four ultras killed, jawan hurt in Valley**

Srinagar: FOUR militants were killed while a security personnel was injured in the militancy-related incidents across the valley since Friday evening. Meanwhile, police claims to have apprehended a suspected militant. Police said a militant was killed in an encounter with the army in the south Kashmir district of Pulwama. Police has identified the slain militant as Mohammad Ashraf Mir alias Majid, a resident of Lurav Jagger. Police said Mir was a company commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, the largest indigenous militant outfit of Kashmir. In a similar incident, two militants were killed and a Imambara damaged in an encounter between militants and security forces at Pahalgam in Anantnag. Meanwhile, police said that they recovered the body of another militant, killed in an encounter with security forces at Trakpora, Bandipore yesterday. Police also recovered an AK rifle, three magazines, a wireless set and some rounds of ammunition from the encounter site.

The Indian Express, 12 June 2005

#### **Hizbul rebuffs Hurriyat; favours 'armed struggle'** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Rejecting the call by moderate Hurriyat leaders to militant groups to take a backseat and support the political leadership to work out a solution to the Kashmir issue, Pakistan-based militant group Hizbul Mujahideen has said the situation in the Valley warranted militancy to continue. "The situation (in Kashmir) had aggravated and in such circumstances the requirement for armed struggle had increased," Hizbul leader Sayed Salahuddin said from Muzafarabad in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in response to the call by visiting moderate Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Farooq, in an interview to the same newspaper once again appealed to militant groups, saying that the need of the hour is to focus on a political settlement of the Kashmir problem and those who are engaged in militancy should also be taken into confidence.

The Indian Express, 12 June 2005

#### **We have reached 'resolution phase' on Kashmir issue: Hurriyat** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: The Kashmir issue has 'now reached the resolution phase' and the next year or so will be 'very crucial' in the context of resolving the problem, moderate Hurriyat faction Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said. Farooq, who is on a visit to Pakistan along with eight other Kashmiri separatist leaders from the Valley, also supported Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's proposal on involvement of international community as guarantor in any agreement that would be reached with India to resolve the vexed issue. He said their visit reflected the change in India's stance on Kashmir issue and claimed that it had now recognised its 'disputed nature.'

The Hindu, 12 June 2005

### **Hurriyat leaders leaving on June 16**

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, now on a goodwill mission to Pakistan, will leave for Srinagar by the Karvan-e-Aman bus from Muzaffarabad on June 16.

The Hindu, 12 June 2005

### **"All steps to develop Ladakh" (By Shujaat Bukhari)**

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday fulfilled the demand of the people of Ladakh by bringing the region under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for Jammu and Kashmir. He laid the foundation for two power projects under this plan along with five other projects in the State. Dr. Singh, on a three-day visit, inaugurated the 44 MW Chutak Hydro-Electric Power Project at Kargil and the 45 MW Nimoo-Bazgoo project at Leh. These two projects will come up at a cost of Rs. 1,200 crores. Union Power Minister P. M. Sayeed said he hoped that the Baglihar project would be completed soon. Work on the Uri, Salal and other projects were going on well. Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said that the launching of these projects would change the overall development profile of the region.

The Daily Times, 12 June 2005

### **'India, Pakistan must spare a thought for my Kashmir plan'**

LAHORE: Dr Mubashir Hasan, Punjab Pakistan People's Party-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) president, has appealed to Pakistan, India and political leaders of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir to take his win-win plan seriously. "The plan prepared by the former finance minister envisages doing away with the Line of Control, giving Kashmiris the right to travel and trade in Pakistan and India, allowing Pakistanis and Indians to freely travel and trade in the former state, confirming the right of India and Pakistan to defend Kashmir's border with China and withdrawal of Indian and Pakistani forces from the state. The plan also envisages a treaty between Pakistan and India that they would not wage war in the former state of Jammu and Kashmir and all parties will honour the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960." Last month, Dr Hasan presented his plan before Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and a select gathering of influential people in New Delhi.

The Daily Times, 12 June 2005

### **Kashmir solution should reflect popular wishes: Rice and Kasuri (By Khalid Hasan)**

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Dr Condoleezza Rice in meeting on Friday with Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri said that Washington was appreciative of the ongoing peace process between Pakistan and India as it considered it vital for the region's overall security. The minister briefed the secretary on the latest developments in Indo-Pak relations, including the visit of the Hurriyat delegation to Pakistan. The two of them hoped, according to the Pakistan embassy, that an amicable solution would be found to the Kashmir dispute, in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Daily Excelsior, 12 June 2005

### **Hizb commander among 3 killed**

SRINAGAR: Three ultras, including a self-styled company commander of Hizbul Mujahideen were killed in separate encounters in Kashmir since last night. A joint search party of BSF and Army killed self-styled company commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Mohammad Ashraf Mir alias Majid, active for the past 10 years... The militant, wanted in connection with a number of incidents, was asked to surrender but he opened fire at the security forces, who retaliated killing him. An AK rifle, three magazines, four hand grenades and a wireless set were recovered from the slain ultra, the spokesman said. Security forces killed two militants in an encounter at Trakpora in Bandipora area of Baramulla district yesterday and recovered an AK rifle, three magazines, 146 rounds and a wireless set from them, the spokesman said.

The Daily Excelsior, 12 June 2005

### **Hurriyat floats concept of 'united states of Kashmir'**

ISLAMABAD: Moderate Hurriyat faction chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has propounded a new concept for resolving the Kashmir issue - one of the 'United States of Kashmir' in which people would be able to move freely. "We desire to be citizens of the United States of Kashmir and we desire India and Pakistan to give a free hand to the Kashmiri leadership to come up with new proposals," he said adding the Hurriyat Conference has decided to take the initiative. As India was not ready for tripartite negotiations, the moderate Hurriyat leader said "a way out could be triangular talks between Kashmiris and Pakistan, between Kashmiris and India and between Pakistan and India."

The Daily Excelsior, 12 June 2005

### **Two militants, two cops killed**

RAJOURI/DODA: Two militants including a foreign mercenary of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and two police personnel were killed while an Army Subedar was injured in two separate encounters in the two districts today. Two militants, who were killed in the operation, have been identified as Abu Katil, a foreign mercenary from Pakistan and Mohd Shaffi alias Abu Zabrán son of Lal Hussain... Both of them had been classified as 'A' category militants, Mr Singh said, adding Abu Katil was active in Rajouri for last three years and was involved in a number of atrocities against the civilians in Thanna Mandi and other areas. Recoveries made from the scene of encounter include two AK rifles, three grenades, four magazines, 78 rounds, six blankets, a large quantity of food items and a Thoraya mobile telephone.

The Daily Excelsior, 12 June 2005

**Peace in Siachen, without redrawing borders: PM**

SIACHEN Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Toda said the time had come to convert the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, into a peace mountain" without redrawing established borders." Now the time has come and we should try to convert this battlefield into a peace mountain," the Prime Minister said in his address to the troops at the base camp here before winding up his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Any solution arising from the ongoing peace process with Pakistan would take full care of the security and well being of the troops.

The Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2005

**Civilian shot dead, RDX seized**

SRINAGAR: Militants shot dead a civilian in north Kashmir today while security forces seized arms and ammunition including RDX and grenades in Kashmir valley. The militants shot dead a civilian Mohammad Shafi Hajam son of Ali Mohd Hajam at his native village Tilgam Bala, Kreeri in north Kashmir district of Baramulla today. Security forces during a search operation at Kralpora in the frontier district of Kupwara last evening seized a large cache of arms and ammunition. They recovered 20 kg of RDX, 11 hand grenades, UBGL grenades, two UBG launchers, one wireless set, 50 dry batteries, three Improvised Explosive Devices, 150 meters of cordex wire and 1200 AK rounds, official sources said.

The Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2005

**JCO, 3 militants killed**

JAMMU: Troops tonight foiled an infiltration attempt on Line of Control (LoC) in Chalas area of Poonch sector killing one infiltrator while a hunt was on for others. In other incidents, two militants and an Army JCO were killed and another soldier was injured in Rajouri and Ramban today. Official sources said... alert troops opened firing when the militants came within the firing range. In the exchange of firing, one infiltrator was killed. One AK rifle was recovered from his possession. No casualties were reported on the Army side in the operation which continued till late in the night. Body of the slain militant has been recovered from the spot but his identity hasn't been established so far. The militant was, however, believed to be a foreign mercenary. An unidentified ultra was shot dead by the security forces in Aaran forest area near village Naalian in Gool under the jurisdiction of Ramban police district early today. The militant was affiliated with Lashkar-e-Toiba. One AK rifle, one wireless set and one pouch were recovered from him.

The Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2005

**Hizb rejects Mirwaiz call to ultras to take backseat** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting the call by moderate Hurriyat leaders to militant groups to take a backseat and support the political leadership to work out a solution to the Kashmir issue, Pakistan-based militant group Hizbul Mujahideen has said the situation in the Valley warranted the militancy to continue. "The situation (in Kashmir) had aggravated and in such circumstances the requirement for armed struggle had increased," Hizbul leader Sayed Salahuddin said from Muzaffarabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the call by visiting moderate Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. He claimed that it was due to the sacrifices of militants that Kashmir had come out of the cold storage to become the focus of international attention.

The Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2005

**Kashmir has reached resolution phase: Mirwaiz** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Observing that Kashmir issue has reached the "resolution phase", the moderate faction of the Hurriyat has said international community should be involved as guarantor in any agreement acceptable to India, Pakistan and Kashmiri people. "I think that whenever such a situation will arise, the international community will automatically be involved in the matter, and we think that it should be involved in any such agreement on Kashmir," visiting Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said in an interview to Pakistani daily "Dawn". The Mirwaiz said the visit by Hurriyat leaders reflected the change in India's stance and its desire for resolving the dispute. "Now we have reached the resolution phase and we are talking on different options. The next year or so are very crucial in the context of resolving the Kashmir issue."

The Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2005

**Manmohan first PM to visit Siachen** (Press Trust of India)

SIACHEN: Dr Manmohan Singh today created history by becoming first Prime Minister to visit the inhospitable Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield. "I wanted to see for myself what your living conditions and arrangements are and what are your problems and what the Government can do to address those," he told soldiers at the base camp situated at an altitude of 11,118 ft.

The Hindu, 13 June 2005

**Hizb leader rejects Mirwaiz's offer** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: The United Jihad Council (UJC) chairman and supreme commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, Syed Salahuddin, has rejected the Hurriyat leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's statement that it is time to back the dialogue process and that "new ideas and proposals" need to be discussed since the United Nations has failed to solve the Kashmir dispute. In a hard-hitting statement issued to local news agency KNS from Muzaffarabad, Mr. Salahuddin rejected the Mirwaiz's offer to the militant leadership for a berth in Hurriyat. "Militant leadership does not need to join the Hurriyat. But we will keep a close watch on the political and diplomatic activities and will support any attempt that is aimed at solving the dispute in accordance with the right to self-determination of people of Kashmir." He also rejected the Mirwaiz's proposal of solving the Kashmir dispute on the basis of geography rather than religion.

The Hindu, 13 June 2005

**Kashmir issue can be solved in 'two weeks': Musharraf**

Kuala Lumpur: The Kashmir issue can be solved in two weeks if leaders of both India and Pakistan display the political will, President Pervez Musharraf said here today. Asked if he shared the optimism of some that the Kashmir issue could be settled in a couple of years, Musharraf quipped "why two years I think it can be resolved within two weeks if we have the will." He said talks were being held on issues such as withdrawing troops from Siachen, adding the parleys to redeploy the troops were meant to end the "eyeball to eyeball confrontation" and "I am sure we'll reach a conclusion."

The Daily Times, 13 June 2005

**Kashmir is not a land issue: Imran**

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan has said the Kashmir issue is not that of land, rather it is a matter of giving the Kashmiris their due rights. The Kashmiris, he said, were human beings and not a herd of cattle to be distributed between the two countries. He was talking to a All Parties Hurriyat Conference delegation on Sunday. The delegation led by Yasin Malik met Imran at his office and exchanged views on the Kashmir issue. Yasin invited Imran to visit held Kashmir which he accepted. Imran said that confidence-building measures taken by Indian and Pakistan were good but at the same time it should also be ensured that no atrocities were committed in held Kashmir by Indian forces. He said those who were engaged in the liberation struggle should not be humiliated and crushed.

The Daily Times, 13 June 2005

**More CBMs on Kashmir likely during Manmohan's visit next month** (By Mohammad Imran)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have agreed to introduce new confidence-building measures (CBMs) including a partial withdrawal of Indian troops from held Kashmir. "President Pervez Musharraf had told the visiting All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders that Pakistan and India would initiate three major CBMs which would benefit the people of two Kashmirs," sources privy to the meetings between a nine-member APHC delegation and President Musharraf told Daily Times on Sunday. Sources said the CBMs would be announced during a meeting between President Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who is likely to visit Pakistan next month.

The Indian Express, 13 June 2005

**Army: Five km damaged fence reconstructed along LoC** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: FOUR to five kms of fencing, damaged in avalanches recently, has been reconstructed in patches along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir so far, Defence sources said. Admitting that major damage was caused to the three-tier fencing along 740 km of Indo-Pak border in February due to avalanches in the state, the sources said, "We will repair it fully during summer season." Ruling out any cause of concern over the issue, the sources said, "We are committed to completing the repair of entire fencing as soon as snow melts." Coupled with other ground surveillance devices and thermal imagers, fencing has proved to be most powerful deterrent for militants along the LoC, they added.

The Indian Express, 13 June 2005

### **3 ultras killed; police rescues youth from clutches of ultras**

Jammu: THREE militants were killed while a youth was rescued by police from the clutches of militants and a large cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered in the different militancy related incidents today. Acting on a specific information a joint party of police and army launched an operation at Thanpara in Kachyale area of Rajouri and in the encounter one militant was killed who has been identified as Abu Tayab of the Al-Badr militant outfit. From his possession, Police said, 1 AK 56, 4 magazines, 78 rounds, 2 grenades and a radio set was recovered. Elsewhere at Mahore in Udhampur, the troops of Rashtriya Rifles shot dead a militant in an exchange of fire which followed after the forces were shot at by the militants. In another operation at Bahadur post, security forces eliminated one infiltrating militant and recovered one AK rifle from his possession.

The Indian Express, 13 June 2005

### **PM announces Rs 10-cr package for Leh council**

Leh: PRIME Minister Dr Manmohan Singh released the Ladakh 2025 Vision Document prepared by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council here today and announced a package of Rs 10 crore for the council. The vision document, based on overall development of Leh with emphasis on tourism, industries, roads and building, stated that Leh in 2025 would be one of the most developed places in the region. The Prime Minister, while releasing the document, assured the Leh Hill Development Council that full support would be provided for translating the vision into reality and announced a Rs 10-crore package.

The Hindu, 14 June 2005

### **15 killed in Pulwama car blast** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

PULWAMA: At least 15 persons, including two schoolchildren and three Central Reserve Police Force jawans, were killed and 60 others injured when an explosives-laden car blew up at a market here on Monday. The blast caused extensive damage to scores of buildings and vehicles. No militant organisation has claimed responsibility. The two schoolchildren, who were killed, were taking their examinations, Mr. Sheikh said. The school building was damaged as also a brick-laden truck passing by. A witness said at least 10 shopkeepers lost their lives. Hundreds of residents took to the streets and raised slogans against the police and the security forces for not attending to the injured immediately. A spokesman of the Awantipore-based Victor Force of the Army told the local news agency, CNS, that the Hizb-ul Mujahideen was responsible for the explosion.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

### **Sheikh Rashid trained Kashmiri fighters: Yasin** (By Shahzad Raza)

ISLAMABAD: When the armed struggle in held Kashmir was at its zenith, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed set up a camp where around 3,500 Jihadis were trained in guerrilla warfare, revealed Yasin Malik, the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman... "Sheikh Rashid has played a great role for Kashmir's liberation. He used to support the frontline Jihadis, but very few people know about his contributions," the JKLF chief informed the audience. The JKLF leader praised Rashid for his contribution to the armed struggle... Yasin Malik demanded free and fair elections to choose true representatives of Kashmiri people for the dialogue process.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

### **15 die in Kashmir blast, 100 injured**

SRINAGAR: A bomb hidden in a pickup truck exploded in a bustling town in Indian Held Kashmir on Monday, killing 15 people, including the suspected attacker and a 14-year-old boy, and injuring at least 100 others, police said. The blast uprooted trees, shattered two cars and damaged a dozen shops, a school and a post office near a security forces' camp in the town of Pulwama, Deputy Inspector General of Police Owes Ahmad said. At least eight injured people were in critical condition, Ahmad said. Eleven civilians, three paramilitary soldiers and the suspected attacker were killed. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. An AK-47 rifle was recovered near the charred body of the unidentified attacker found in the truck, he said. Shortly after the explosion, angry residents came out into the streets protesting delays by officials in rescuing the wounded. A hardline pro-Pakistan faction of a Kashmiri separatist alliance led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani called for a general strike today (Tuesday) to protest the attack. Indian intelligence officials say security forces are preparing for more violence in Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **16 killed, 100 injured in Pulwama blast** (By Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)

SRINAGAR: Thirteen civilians and three officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) got killed and over a hundred civilians injured when a Maruti car, laden with a huge quantity of explosive material, blew up at a crowded marketplace in front of a government school in Pulwama township of south Kashmir today. Seven people died on spot and over a hundred others sustained splinter and sharpnel injuries. Later, nine more of the injured

succumbed to injuries. According to these sources, condition of six more civilians was uncertain at two hospitals in Srinagar. Sources said that immediately after the victims of the blast were shifted to hospital, a crowd of nearly 1,500 residents of Pulwama and adjoining villages began shouting slogans against Police and the Government. In a statement, Hurriyat condemned the blast and asked the people to remain vigilant against those who did not want resolution of the Kashmir problem...

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **3 HM ultras shot dead in Doda**

JAMMU: Army and Doda police today gunned down three Hizbul Mujahideen militants including an 'area commander' in a fierce encounter at Sikri Top in Marmat area of Doda district. A woman was injured in the cross-firing. In two other incidents, an Army jawan, a militant and a civilian were killed in Surankote and Gool areas late last night. Three slain militants have been identified as... an 'area commander'... and activists of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. Recoveries made from their possession include one AK rifle, one Insas rifle, one Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) and ammunition of AK and Insas.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **Pak asks India to vacate troops from Siachen** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Giving a cold response to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement favouring the conversion of Siachen glacier into a "peace mountain," Pakistan today maintained its stand that India vacate its "aggression" and withdraw troops to positions held at the time of 1972 Simla Agreement. "India as you know committed aggression on Siachen in 1983. India has to vacate that aggression in order to make Siachen a peaceful area. We hope following the (Prime Minister's) statement, India would unconditionally withdraw its aggression on the basis of past agreements," Foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told a media briefing. Asked if there was room for optimism for resolution of Kashmir issue in the light of the visit of Hurriyat leaders to Pakistan, Jilani said events between the two countries during the last two months have given hope for any early resolution of the Kashmir issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **Pak has no solution to offer: Hurriyat** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: With Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf talking of various options to resolve the Kashmir issue, moderate Hurriyat faction has said the country does not have a solution to offer on the vexed problem. Playing down the optimism generated by the visit of Kashmiri separatist leaders, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said they had "very honest discussion" with Musharraf and their understanding was that "Pakistan doesn't have a solution to offer to Kashmiri people."... Farooq said "there is no ready-made solution" to the Kashmir problem and the best mode of moving forward could be tripartite talks with India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri leadership sitting on the same table.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **Patil reviews Kashmir situation**

NEW DELHI: The Centre reviewed the security situation in Kashmir in the wake of the massive car bomb explosion at Pulwama in south Kashmir today in which at least 20 people were killed and more than 120 wounded. Home Minister Shivraj Patil convened a meeting of senior officials of his Ministry and discussed the issue. Those who attended the meeting included Home Secretary V K Duggal and Mr Anil Choudhary, Special Secretary (Internal Security). The Home Minister described the incident as a "desperate act" on the part of those who did not want the situation to improve. He said that despite these provocations, the Government would continue to make efforts for establishing normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **Baglihar joint inspection in October**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan today said its engineers will visit Baglihar hydro power project in Jammu and Kashmir before a joint inspection of the site along with World Bank neutral expert scheduled for October. The two countries have agreed on different requirements including a visit of Pakistani engineers before the joint inspection takes place in October, foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani, who returned from Paris after attending the meeting of officials from India, Pakistan and World Bank neutral expert Raymond Lafitte, said. He said the neutral expert assured that he wanted expeditious determination and closure of the issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2005

### **Cong declines comment on Hurriyat**

NEW DELHI: Refusing to react to the proposal of the Hurriyat Conference for a United States of Kashmir, the Congress today said it has always been consistent in the view that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. We have no comment to offer, AICC spokesman Anand Sharma told mediapersons when he was asked to

give a reaction to the proposal. In this context, he said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had made an important statement in Siachen yesterday, reaffirming the stated position. There was no change in the stand of the Congress and the Government vis-a-vis Kashmir, Mr Sharma said.

The Hindu, 15 June 2005

**A premeditated attack: CPI**

NEW DELHI: The Left parties on Tuesday condemned Monday's car bomb attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir. Describing it as a premeditated attack meant to kill a large number of civilians, the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), in a statement, asked the Centre not to be deterred from pursuing talks on the Kashmir issue even while taking measures to prevent "such mindless violence." The Communist Party of India said the attack was aimed at scuttling the peace process, and urged all secular democratic sections in the State not to be cowed down by terrorists but to isolate them and defeat their designs.

The Daily Times, 15 June 2005

**Water disputes hampering Kashmir solution: Musharraf**

CANBERRA: A failure by Islamabad and New Delhi to agree on disputes over water in Kashmir is a strain on the quest for a wider agreement, President General Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday. Musharraf reiterated that he believed the best chance for peace lay in the relationship he had developed with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and underlined the need for a deal to be reached before either leader left office. He said that the two countries' quest to resolve the Kashmir dispute would not be pushed off course by militant violence. Speaking a day after a deadly car bombing in Kashmir, Musharraf said: "I think we should not be overly bothered about (the car bombing) and we should not allow it to affect the peace process.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

**Malik says Pak Minister ran training camp for 3500 jihadis** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: In a startling revelation, visiting JKLF chief Yasin Malik has said about 3,500 militants were trained at a camp set up by Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed when the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir was at its peak. However, Rashid, who had refused to comment on the statement yesterday, sought to make light of the remarks today saying "I do not know which Sheikh he (Malik) is referring to. There are so many Sheikhs in Rawalpindi." The camp's existence was fairly well known to public and journalists at large in Pakistan, he added.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

**Mufti raps human rights bodies**

RAMNAGAR/VIJAYPUR: Cautioning people against evil designs of the 'enemies of peace', Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed today lambasted human rights organisations for maintaining a criminal silence over inhuman acts of terrorists. "Some elements have been committing heinous crimes in the State but most of the human rights organisations have maintained a silence over these acts", he said while interacting with media persons... "Human rights organisations used to raise hue and cry over acts of security forces but they are silent over acts of terrorists", Mufti said with an obvious reference towards recent incidents of bomb blasts in Srinagar in which large number of innocent people, including school going children, were killed.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

**Japanese Bank approves Rs 3600 cr funding for J&K** (By Sanjeev Pargal)

JAMMU: Within a couple of months of Asian Development Bank (ADB) providing Rs 1700 crore funding to Jammu and Kashmir for construction of roads and bridges, the Japanese Bank of Industrial Co-operation (JBIC) has also sanctioned a grant of Rs 3600 crore for the State. Dr Haseeb Drabu, Economic Advisor to J&K Government, told the Excelsior today that the JBIC has promised to release Rs 3600 for upgrading urban sewerage, sanitation and allied projects in the State. He revealed that out of Rs 3600 crore funding by the JBIC, Rs 1900 crore will be spent on the projects in Srinagar while Rs 1700 crore will be earmarked for Jammu region. In another important decision, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has also assured a funding of Rs 2,000 crore for upgrading health facilities in the State. Another funding being explored by the Government is from International Development Agency (IDA) which is likely to give funds for health, social and educational sectors etc...

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

**Baglihar an irritant in resolving Kashmir: Musharraf**

CANBERRA: Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf said today that a failure by his country and India to agree on Baglihar Hydropower Project in Jammu and Kashmir is an irritant in the quest for a wider agreement on Kashmir issue. "They are bad irritants, I would say," Musharraf said of the Baglihar dam being built by India in Kashmir. "For it shows that if we cannot resolve these smaller issues it puts into doubt our capability of resolving

the very complex major dispute which has been there since 1947." However, Musharraf also said that he still believes a resolution on Kashmir can be reached by 2007. Musharraf said that a suicide bombing that tore through a crowded market in Kashmir yesterday underscored the problems India and Pakistan face in negotiating a Kashmir solution.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

#### **Valley shut down over blast**

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley today observed shutdown in protest against a car bomb explosion which had left 16 people dead and over a hundred injured at Pulwama in south Kashmir on Monday. Meanwhile, suspected militants have killed a civilian in Shopian area. While a large section of the vehicular traffic was off the road and attendance in Government offices was modest, most of the shops and business establishments remained closed for the day to register the Valley's protest against yesterday's blast in Pulwama town. Chairman of the hardline faction of the Hurriyat Conference and head of the lately floated Tehreek-e-Hurriyat-e-Kashmir, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had called for 'Kashmir bandh', asking people to observe total shutdown in protest against the blast.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

#### **Rashid may be denied permission to travel to Kashmir**

NEW DELHI: At the centre of a controversy after a disclosure that he had helped in training Kashmiri militants, Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed is unlikely to be allowed to travel in the bus that comes to Srinagar from Muzaffarabad in Pak-occupied Kashmir. Well-placed sources here said that the Minister may not be given permission to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, particularly after disclosure by JKLF leader Yasin Malik in Islamabad yesterday that Rashid had organised camps for training Kashmiri militants in early 1990s. An indication to the Government thinking on the issue was given by External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna today who said that Malik's revelation was a matter of great concern. "It is particularly serious that people directly involved in such activities continue to occupy high positions in Pakistan," he said in response to a question.

The Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2005

#### **Include Kashmiris in talks: Hurriyat**

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) today repeated their demand for a role for Kashmiri leaders in the Indo-Pak peace process. "It will be difficult for both Pakistan and India to find a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue without involving the principal party, the Kashmiris, in the dialogue process," they told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting here. On his "United States of Kashmir" proposal, the Mirwaiz said it is one of the options aimed at seeking a negotiated solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. JKLF chief Yasin Malik said the Kashmiri leadership should not be denied opportunity to represent their people in the ongoing composite dialogue. He said resolution of Kashmir issue through peaceful negotiations by including Kashmiris in this process is a must to ensure peace and stability in the region.

The Indian Express, 15 June 2005

#### **Peerzada hails PM for announcing sops for Ladakh**

APPRECIATING Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh for announcement of opening of Kargil-Skurdu road, construction of dependable NH from Srinagar to Leh, and launching of two hydro-electric projects in Ladakh, JKPC President and Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed said in a statement issued today that this would open new vistas of trade and commerce in the state and would also make hub of economic activities in Ladakh region. He said, "the people of J&K salute the pragmatic leaders of India and Pakistan to give a chance to fresh era of peace, progress and development".

The Indian Express, 16 June 2005

#### **Moderate Hurriyat faction backs Mush's Kashmir formula** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: GIVING a tacit backing to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's reported 'autonomous Kashmir' formula sans independence, moderate Hurriyat Conference faction today said it would go ahead with it if there was a consensus decision. Musharraf, currently on a visit to Australia, was quoted by the local media as saying in Canberra that autonomous Kashmir was his earnest desire if some consensus could be developed on it. He also said that complete independence for Kashmir will not be acceptable to both India and Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) leader Yasin Malik, an advocate of Independence, however, declined to react to Musharraf's comments.

The Indian Express, 16 June 2005

#### **Peace, harmony returning back in Valley: Mir**

Srinagar: SAYING that composite culture of Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits, the Minister of State for Works Ghulam Ahmad Mir has appealed the Pandit community to be serious for returning to their homeland.

He said that the role played by Pandits in maintaining and promoting the glorious ethos of Kashmiriyat is unforgettable... the Minister assured all possible help from the government for their dignified return and rehabilitation in the Valley. He said that Central Government was also sincere to provide funds for this purpose and expressed his optimism in this regard. Mir said that peace and harmony are returning back in the Valley and added that Kashmiriyat has stood upright despite all odds.

The Indian Express, 16 June 2005

#### **2 Al-Badr ultras, JCO, PDP activist killed**

Srinagar: In a fierce gun-battle between militants and the army, two militants of Pakistan based Al-Badr Mujahideen were killed. Three persons, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and an activist of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were also killed in separate violence related incidents. Two militants were killed in an encounter with the army at Seer Chakpora, Ganderbal, few kilometers from the famous Hindu temple Kheer Bhawani. Police said the duo belonged to the Pakistan based Al Badr Mujahideen militant outfit. It has also claimed to recover two AK rifles, six magazines, a pistol and two wireless sets from the possession of the slain militants. In a separate encounter, a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of army was killed in an encounter with the militants in the frontier district of Kupwara. Police today averted a major tragedy when they recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted at Botingoo in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag.

The Indian Express, 16 June 2005

#### **Terror in J&K will be stamped out soon: India** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: Giving itself a year to stamp out militancy, the Army today said it would have to tackle the threats of infiltration and the 'terrorist infrastructure' across the border for the return of peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "It will take about a year for militancy to end and Kashmir to return to its old glory of peace and prosperity," Northern Command General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Hari Prasad told reporters here today. He said about 60 percent of militancy had already been wiped out and its top leadership eliminated. With further "counter-insurgency actions" and people's initiatives like operation Sadhbhavna, militancy could be wiped out by next year. However, "there is no letup in the attempts to infiltrate into J&K from across the border.

The Indian Express, 16 June 2005

#### **Militants throw infant girl out of house, dies**

Jammu: MILITANTS today killed a 8-month old girl by throwing her out of the house at Gool. Elsewhere in militancy-security related incidents, a jawan and a militant was killed and a militant were killed and a large cache of arms recovered. According to police, militants opened fire on the patrol party of security forces at Gulabgarh in Reasi from a hill top killing a Lance Naik, Tonil Borgohain. Elsewhere at Jhamar in Kishtawar, one militant identified as Saidulla of Balana was eliminated by the security forces. In another incident, militants today killed an 8-month-old by throwing her out of the house, injured her parents and burnt their dwelling in the remote Gool area of Udhampur.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **Militant camps exist despite peace talks: Lt Gen Parsad**

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Lt Gen Hari Prasad today said that there was no visible change in the ground situation, as the militants' training camps across the Line of Control (LoC) still exist and the infiltration attempts by the armed terrorists continue despite the ongoing peace talks between the two countries. Referring to the decline in the infiltration level, the Army Commander said, that it was due to the efforts of the army authorities and not the outcome of the ongoing peace talks between the two countries. The Army Commander said that due to relentless operations by the soldiers, the militants have faced large casualties and their leadership in several areas has been neutralised. He said the people have strongly condemned the acts and they want to get rid of this terror face of militancy.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **Rs 84 cr to be spent on 2 grid stations in Poonch: Niaz**

POONCH: Reiterating the resolve of the coalition Government to provide electric power to each domestic unit of the state by 2007, Power Minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz has said that two grid stations, one each at Chandak and Draba, would be set up in Poonch at an estimated cost of over Rs. 84 crore in order to provide 132 KV line to the border district... Mr. Niaz said that the coalition Government headed by Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed is pursuing vigorously the objective of making the state self-sufficient in power production by harnessing the vast hydro power potential. Referring to the generous financial help to the state from the centre, the Minister said that this has helped in speeding up the pace of development.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat backs Musharraf's Kashmir formula**

ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR: Giving a tacit backing to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's reported "autonomous Kashmir" formula sans independence, moderate Hurriyat Conference faction today said it would go ahead with it if there was a consensus decision. Musharraf, currently on a visit to Australia, was quoted by the local media as saying in Canberra that "autonomous Kashmir" was his "earnest desire" if some consensus could be developed on it. He also said that complete independence for Kashmir will not be acceptable to both India and Pakistan.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **Ultras decamp with AKs from Azad sister's house**

JAMMU: Militants struck in the house of the sister of Union Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad at Soti in Gandoh area of Doda district last night and decamped with two AK rifles and ammunition of her PSOs. Militants also torched house of a civilian and killed his eight month daughter at village Chaklas in Gool area of Ramban police district last night while an Army jawan and a militant were killed in two separate encounter in Mahore and Kishtwar. Sources said there was strong resentment among the local people against the killing of eight month baby by the militants. Some people were also heard shouting slogans against the militants during burial of the baby.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **JCO, 2 militants, PDP worker killed**

SRINAGAR: Two militants and a junior commissioned officer (JCO) have died in two separate gunbattles in Ganderbal and Kupwara areas in Kashmir valley since last evening. Meanwhile, suspected militants have gunned down a veterinary doctor who also happened to be an activist of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Pattan area and two Army porters have been buried alive under a snow avalanche in Nowgam sector of Kupwara district. Two Pakistan-trained militants of Hizbul Mujahideen got killed. Two AK rifles and two damaged wireless sets were recovered from the site of the encounter.

The Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2005

#### **Camp run by Rashid till 1991: Gen Beg**

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Former Pakistan Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg today confirmed Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad did run a training camp for Kashmiri militants, notwithstanding an unequivocal denial by the Minister. Gen Beg said the camp named "freedom house" was located some 16 kilometers from Islamabad. "However, when presence of the camp came to our notice, immediate orders were issued for its closure in 1991," he said. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Malik, currently visiting Pakistan, had said in the initial days of the Kashmir movement, about 3500 boys were accommodated at the Sheikh's farm-house for the purpose. "Sheikh Rashid's contribution was not so big as implied by Malik," the former Army chief added. The camps at Sheikh Rashid's were being looked after by senior JKLF leader Sardar Rasheed Hasrat.

The Hindu, 17 June 2005

#### **'Peace process becoming Kashmir-centric'**

NEW DELHI: In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has expressed concern over the handling of the peace process with Pakistan. The peace process was becoming "Kashmir centric," he said... Mr. Vajpayee wrote the two-page letter to Dr. Singh on Wednesday objecting to the growing demand for "trilateral talks," "international guarantees" for a settlement of the Kashmir issue, and permission to the Hurriyat leaders to travel to Islamabad via the bus service to Muzaffarabad without Indian passports... former External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, pointed out that the recent statements by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and others on India recognising Kashmir as a disputed territory had "gone unchallenged" by the External Affairs Ministry. Allowing the Hurriyat leaders to travel to Pakistan without passports had made India the target of international mockery.

The Indian Express, 17 June 2005

#### **10 JKML activists held**

Srinagar: Ten activists of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League (JKML), a constituent of the hardline Hurriyat faction, were detained today for defying prohibitory orders and trying to take out a rally in Srinagar. The slogan-shouting activists were stopped by police at Regal Chowk. When they refused, police used batons and took ten of them into preventive custody, the officials said.

The Indian Express, 17 June 2005

#### **Two Hizbul militants shot**

Jammu: Stepping up its offensive against militants, J-K Police today achieved a major breakthrough by killing two militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen militant outfit, including its district commander near Qasti Gadh in Doda. The operation was jointly launched by police and the Army. The DIG, Udhampur-Doda range, Satveer Gupta,

identified the militants as Noor-ud-in, District Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen and Ghulam Mohammad, the Tehsil Commander of HM. Police also said that some unknown militants killed a person at Doda.

The Indian Express, 17 June 2005

#### **Yet another blast injures 14**

Srinagar: Even as the memories of the Pulwama blast are fresh in the minds of people, 14 more persons, including two security personnel, were injured in a grenade attack on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway near Awantipora. Police said unidentified gunmen lobbed a hand grenade towards a vehicle of 60 battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) near Awantipora, barely 12 kilometres from Pulwama town, on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The grenade, police sources said, missed the intended target and exploded on the road, injuring 14 persons, including two CRPF personnel. No militant organization has claimed responsibility of the attack.

The Daily Times, 17 June 2005

#### **Onus on India to resolve Kashmir, says Mirwaiz**

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiri separatist leaders went home to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, hoping they could finally join a peace process between India and Pakistan. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said the next move was up to India. "We expect the Government of India to show seriousness and play its role in carrying forward this process. We're ready for talks with New Delhi but it's for them to decide when they want to talk," "The biggest benefit from the trip is that Kashmiris are being accepted as a party to the dispute. Our triangular approach has been appreciated in Pakistan and in Azad Kashmir," Mirwaiz said.

The Indian Express, 17 June 2005

#### **Surrendered militants turn on their team, kill 3 SPOs (By Ishfaq Naseem)**

Jammu: In a major blow to the efforts of the J-K government to bring back surrendered militants in the mainstream, two such militants working as Special Police Officers shifted loyalties and conspired in the killing of three of their associates in an encounter at Bada Draman in Rajouri. "Preliminary reports have established that the two SPOs, in league with the LET militants, laid an ambush and killed the other three SPOs whose bodies were recovered today," said SSP Rajouri J P Singh. The two SPOs switched sides after serving with the police for a long time and participating in major operations in the area.

The Indian Express, 17 June 2005

#### **Two CRPF personnel, one SOG man arrested**

Srinagar: The Residency Road witnesses high drama today, when the police arrested two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and an official of the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the police. A personnel of the Special Operations Group of the police, sources said, today barged into a mobile shop on the Residency Road and asked for a mobile cover. After the owner of the shop gave him the cover, he left the shop without paying the bill. When the owner went after the SOG man in plainclothes and demanded the money, he took out his pistol and fired a shot. . Police sources said that he was involved in many extortion cases and a case has been registered against him.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat leaders return from Pak visit**

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri separatist leaders returned here from Muzaffarabad today after a two-week visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) during which they held talks with the political and militant leadership for resolving the Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq described the visit as "successful", a new beginning and the first step in the right direction". He said the Hurriyat leaders are ready to resume the stalled dialogue process with the Centre, if invited for talks. Mirwaiz Farooq said the visit to Pakistan and PoK was not a pre-condition, but a requirement. The Mirwaiz said Kashmir is a political issue and the gun has no role in its resolution.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

#### **Geelani suspended from Jamaat Advisory Board**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Jamaat-e-Islami, a constituent of hard-line faction of Hurriyat Conference, today said it has suspended pro-Pak leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and his three associates from its advisory council, deepening the fissures among Kashmiri separatists. Adding salt to Geelani's wounds, he was replaced by arch rival Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, in the Majlis-i-Shoora, the top decision making body, party sources said here. Asserting that Geelani could not be a member of the Shooras of two independent parties, Kashani, however, said that Geelani would continue to be a member of the Jamaat and "we will welcome him if he gives up his party or disbands it". Sources said the action against Geelani and his associates was prompted by the

firebrand leader's call asking them to play a leading role in the separatist struggle.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

### **3 SPOs shot dead, 2 missing**

JAMMU: Three Special Police Officers (SPO) were killed and two others were missing during a search operation at Barha Draman in Budhal area of Rajouri district while two Hizbul Mujahideen militants including a 'section commander' were gunned down by the troops in an encounter in Ramban today. The dead bodies of three SPOs, two of whom were brothers, were recovered from near the house of Nazir Hussain son of Abdul Kareem at Barha Draman during the searches. Two other SPOs, who were surrendered militants, remained untraced. The militants also took away three AK rifles and six magazines and the slain SPOs. Two missing SPOs were also in possession of two AK rifles and some ammunition.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

### **Rashid to go ahead with Kashmir visit** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Amid raging controversy over reports that he used to run a training camp for militants, Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed today said he would go ahead with his proposed bus journey to Srinagar on June 30 as it will be a "test" between those supporting the peace process and those obstructing it. Ahmed said his travel to Jammu and Kashmir by Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus was also a test for CBMs between the two countries. "I am sure the Indian Government will give me permission to travel by the bus," he told Geo TV last night. Meanwhile, Pakistan's prominent opposition parties and former top generals have joined those confirming Ahmed's alleged role in running the camp.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

### **Cong flays separatists' travel beyond PoK**

NEW DELHI: The Congress today said the sanctity of the bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan had been violated by Kashmiri separatist leaders by travelling beyond Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) to Islamabad but the breach was on the part of Pakistan not India. "The breach of the bilateral agreement by the Hurriyat leaders is a serious matter and the Government of India must take appropriate action," Congress spokesman Anand Sharma said. "If there was a breach of the agreement by Hurriyat leaders travelling beyond PoK, it was the Pakistan administration which was responsible for it.

The Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2005

### **15 injured in Awantipore blast**

SRINAGAR: Even as thirteen civilians and two CRPF personnel sustained injuries in a grenade blast at Awantipore today, security forces claimed to have killed three infiltrating militants in Tangdar area of Kupwara district. Informed sources told the Excelsior that a suspected militant lobbed a hand grenade on a parked CRPF vehicle... It exploded causing splinter injuries to two CRPF personnel and 13 civilians, including a student. Sources said that troops of 12 JAK Rifles had laid an ambush around the Eagle Post in Tangdar area of Kupwara district following an information that a number of militants were likely to infiltrate. Suddenly a group of the militants crossed over and fell into the trap. During the operation, a fierce gunbattle took place between the militants and security forces. Three unidentified militants got killed.

The Daily Times, 18 June 2005

### **Kashmiri leaders came to Pakistan on Indian agenda: JI**

LAHORE: The Kashmir leadership's visit to Pakistan did not serve the Kashmir cause, it merely fortified the Indian stance on Kashmir, said Syed Munawar Hassan, Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general on Friday. "The UN resolutions on Kashmir are the only option endorsed by India, Kashmir and Pakistan. Talks on other options, such as the independence of Kashmir, are nothing but negation of the historically important case," he said during a Friday sermon at Jamia Mansoorah. He said that the Kashmiri leaders' visit had compromised the Kashmir issue greatly.

The Daily Times, 18 June 2005

### **JKLF chief says ISI trained Kashmiri fighters in AJK** (Reuters)

ISLAMABAD: Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) gave military training to Kashmiri rebels battling security forces in Indian-held Kashmir, a separatist leader has said. While India has long accused Pakistan of training and arming the rebels, a charge Islamabad denies, this is the first confirmation by a separatist leader in the state... Amanullah Khan, chief of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)... said he was given the impression that Pakistan's then military ruler, General Ziaul Haq, also supported the notion of independence for Kashmir. Khan said the JKLF began bringing young men into Azad Kashmir from the Indian side in 1988, where they received training from the ISI. Pakistan has always denied training or arming the insurgents, but it has said it offers political support

to the "freedom struggle" of the Kashmiri people.

The Indian Express, 18 June 2005

**Infiltration bids will pick up this month** (By Pawan Bali)

In June, the 'cross-over' activity picks up pace. With the snow melting and the passes clearing up, the summers here translate into tighter vigil on the LoC as the infiltration bids start running high. This year too, from the zero level of infiltration bid in March, the Army has already foiled four major bids till the mid of this month. Even though the annual infiltration graph is showing a decline, the summers spell trouble. Army Commander, Northern Command, Lt General Hari Prasad had categorically stated that infiltration attempts were on, as the training camps in PoK and Pakistan were operational. About the talks of militants using chemicals to damage fencing while trying to infiltrate, Prasad said they were all "fairy tales".

The Indian Express, 18 June 2005

**Hurriyat formula from Pak will be rejected: Militants** (Press Trust of India)

Srinagar: BRANDING the moderate Hurriyat faction as agents of intelligence agencies, the four militant groups that opposed the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service today said they will not accept any formula the separatist leaders have brought from Pakistan for resolution of the Kashmir issue. "Any solution these leaders have brought from Pakistan for resolution of the Kashmir issue will be hurled back." A spokesman for Al Nasireen, Al Arifeen, Save Kashmir Movement and Farzandan-e-Millat said in a faxed statement here. "The only solution is jihad," he said. "These people do not represent the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but are actually friends of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed..."

The Indian Express, 18 June 2005

**Seven killed as violence surges**

Srinagar: Seven persons, including four militants, were killed in separate incidents of violence across the Valley. Militants also attacked an SOG camp in South Kashmir. Army today claimed to have killed three militants at Regal Post, Tanghdar. The militants were part of a group of infiltrators who had a long encounter with the troops of 12 JAK LI after they were spotted by the troops. Giving details of the encounter, Army said on Thursday morning troops intercepted a group of militants and killed three militants. However, some of the militants managed to give slip to the troops. In another incident, police said an encounter broke out between hiding militants and security forces at Waelpan Awantipora in which a militant was killed.

The Indian Express, 18 June 2005

**Militants behind Biscoe, Pulwama blasts held** (By Ishfaq Naseem)

Jammu: Amidst the Indo-Pak thaw and normalisation of ties, the J-K Police have achieved a major breakthrough by arresting the militants behind the blast near the missionary school at Srinagar and at Pulwama which left scores of people dead. Sources said the police have arrested the persons in connection with the grenade attack at Biscoe School and also extracted some startling revelations which may lead to the solution of many militant attacks that took place in the South Kashmir. The arrested militants involved in the militant attack at the Biscoe school have been identified as... an active militant of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen...

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**Hizb, Harkat did Pulwama blast: Police**

SRINAGAR: Even as Police today claimed that Hizbul Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen militant outfits had caused the June 13th car bomb blast in Pulwama, seven militants, two released militants and a civilian have died in different incidents of violence across Kashmir valley since last evening. A Jammu & Kashmir Police spokesman today claimed in a statement that Pulwama Police had achieved a breakthrough in the June 13th car bomb explosion in which 16 persons, including three CRPF officials, had got killed and over a hundred injured. Meanwhile, today's reports from north Kashmir said that three more infiltrating militants got killed in an encounter with security forces in Tangdar area, close to LoC, in Kupwara district.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**Govt not to stop work on Baglihar: Dasmunshi**

JAMMU: Ruling out abandoning work on Baglihar hydro power project, Union Minister for Water Resources, Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi today said that project will be completed by June 2006. Mr Dasmunshi hoped that this project will not become hurdle in the on-going process between India and Pakistan. In an informal chat with media persons here, Mr Dasmunshi... made it clear that India has not violated Indus Water Treaty as alleged by Pakistan. When his attention was drawn towards news items published in a section of media that India and Pakistan have agreed to share power, the Water Resources Minister stoutly denied the reports. "There is no question of sharing electricity with Pakistan", he said.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**Hurriyat visit strengthened peace forces: CM**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, while appreciating the positive tour of Hurriyat leaders to other side of LoC and interaction with leaders and people there, today said that this has strengthened the forces of peace. He said the understanding created by this visit of Hurriyat leaders also clearly indicate the mood of people on both sides of LoC for establishing lasting peace. The Chief Minister said that opening of other traditional trade routes which were back bone of state's economy in the past would catapult trade and economy and lead towards prosperity and progress.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**Sheikh Rashid welcome to J&K: Mehbooba** (By Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)

SRINAGAR: In sharp contrast to Congress party's no-no to the Pakistani Information Minister's intention of visiting Jammu & Kashmir by Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti today said that Kashmir would greet Sheikh Rashid with impeccable hospitality. Mehbooba rejected BJP's argument that Hurriyat's passage to PoK and Pakistan had rejuvenated the hardliners and created an advantage Pakistan situation. Mehbooba contended that in their speeches to PoK Assembly and on different occasions, the separatist leaders had asserted against the cult of violence. She said that India had shown magnanimity in granting permission of visit to the separatist leaders and it was a remarkably significant step in the current peace process between India and Pakistan.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**Ball in India's court now: Hurriyat**

SRINAGAR: The moderate Hurriyat Conference today said the "ball is in India's court now" to show "seriousness" in resuming the stalled talks aimed at resolving the Kashmir issue. Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Omar Farooq said the Hurriyat leaders are ready to hold unconditional talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at any point of time. Addressing a Friday congregation at the historic Jamia Masjid here, he said the first step to find a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue has been crossed by the visit of the Hurriyat and other separatist leaders to Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the second will be followed by their talks with the Prime Minister in the coming days. He said the Hurriyat leaders have certain ideas to put forth before the Indian leadership which will help resolve the long-festering issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2005

**ISI aided militancy in J&K: Ammanullah**

ISLAMABAD: A separatist Kashmiri leader has revealed that Pakistani intelligence agency Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) imparted military training to Kashmiri youth in the early eighties, which culminated in a full-fledged armed freedom struggle in Kashmir in July 1988. Ammanullah Khan who is chief of a faction of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said... I was given an impression that President Zia had a soft corner for the JKLF's notion of Kashmir, Mr Khan said. Under the terms of the agreement, ISI agreed not to interfere in organizational or ideological matters of the JKLF, which in turn was asked to bring youth from the Kashmir to Pakistan occupied Kashmir for a military training by the agency. He said Sheikh Muhammad Afzal, who is presently senior vice-chairman of the Front, had been entrusted the task of sending these boys from Kashmir to Azad Kashmir for military training.

The Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2005

**Dasmunshi submits report to PM** (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI: India today asserted that the Baglihar hydro-power project in Jammu and Kashmir, which has been referred to a neutral expert for adjudication on Pakistan's insistence, did not violate the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). During the visit to the project, he along with Chief Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed and State Power Minister had held meetings with technical experts and engineers in the project which was very important for the State, he said. India would, however, cooperate with the neutral expert and would respond to queries raised by Pakistan side to "their satisfaction". Dasmunshi said a team of experts from Pakistan was likely to visit the site by July end followed by a visit by the neutral expert sometime in October.

The Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2005

**Blast in militant's house**

SRINAGAR: A Dy SP was among six Police personnel injured when residents of Malangpura village in Pulwama district clashed with Police over a bomb blast caused at a militant's house. Meanwhile, students at the district headquarters of Pulwama staged a demonstration against June 13th car bomb blast which had left 16 people dead and over a hundred injured. Security forces have, meanwhile, killed two militants in a fierce gunbattle in

Bandipore area of Baramulla district. Informed sources told the Excelsior that unidentified men in uniform, caused a massive IED blast at the house of a most wanted militant of Hizbul Mujahideen... When the commander of a nearby company of RR 55 Bn visited the spot alongwith his troops in the morning today, a large number of people gathered and shouted that the Major himself had led the gunmen and caused the blast.

The Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2005

**I only provided food, shelter: Rashid** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Seeking to put an end to controversy over his alleged running of a militant training camp, Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid has insisted he only provided food and shelter to Kashmiri refugees while cautioning that there were elements who wanted to sabotage the peace process. Rashid, whose proposed trip to Jammu and Kashmir by the June 30th Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus has come under cloud ever since the controversy erupted after JKLF leader Yasin Malik reportedly made reference to the camp at a function here, said there were elements who wanted to sabotage the peace process and were always ready to grab any opportunity to kick up the "dust" in order to hurt the peace movement. "I have no remorse over doing my duty and I say it once again that never have I been involved in any militant training activity," he said.

The Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2005

**Two killed, 9 Moulvis injured**

JAMMU: Two persons were killed and nine others were injured, two of them seriously, when a 'Chetna Yatra' bus on 'Bharat darshan', which was flagged off by GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen Hari Parsad from here on June 15 morning, met with an accident at Ballabgarh near Faridabad in Haryana at 8.30 am today. Nine Moulvis out of a total of 35, travelling in the bus, were injured in the mishap, two of them seriously. The video coach bus, carrying Moulvis from remote areas of Rajouri and Poonch districts, was flagged off for 'Bharat darshan' on June 15.

The Indian Express, 19 June 2005

**Villagers block Srinagar-Baramulla highway** (Press Trust of India)

Srinagar: Villagers today blocked traffic on Srinagar-Baramulla highway to protest the killing of a person allegedly by security forces a charge outrightly rejected by the Army. Troops of 29 rashtriya Rifles, acting on specific information about presence of militants at Teligam, 30 kms from here on Srinagar-Baramulla road, had laid a cordon and carried out search operation in the area this morning, official sources told here. They said the security forces could not find any militants or arms and ammunition but picked up nine youths... who took out a protest march against the detention and pelted stones at the local police station.

The Indian Express, 20 June 2005

**Mush lauds India for peace initiative** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Obstacles in resolving the Kashmir issue can be overcome with determination, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said, praising Prime minister Manmohan Singh for showing the desire and courage for achieving lasting peace in the region. Musharraf said Pakistan is making efforts for lasting peace in the region through an amicable resolution of the long-running Kashmir issue. Referring to his recent meetings with Singh, the general said he felt the Indian Prime minister has the desire and courage to address the issue, the official APP News Agency said in a report.

The Indian Express, 20 June 2005

**PDP zonal president, 3 ultras killed**

Srinagar: A zonal president of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) and three militants were among the five persons killed in the Valley since Saturday evening while police claimed to have recovered some arms and ammunition. Police said a zonal president of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was killed by some unidentified gunmen at Ganderbal today. In a separate incident, police said two militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces at the north Kashmir town of Bandipore. Army returned the fire and in the ensuing encounter two militants were killed. The identity of the slain militants was not known. Today militants shot dead a Special Police Officer in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag. Meanwhile, the police claimed to have seized an Ak rifle, three magazines, three anti-tank grenades, seven Rocket Projectile Gun (RPG) bombs, seven plastic grenades, a smoke grenade, a bayonet and 374 rounds of ammunition from a militant hideout at Bona Bahak, Trehgam in Kupwara district.

The Indian Express, 20 June 2005

**'Peace in S Asia possible only through Kashmir solution'** (Press Trust of India)

Islamabad: Pakistan and Hurriyat leaders got a good opportunity to understand each other's views on the Kashmir issue during their recent visit, the country's acting President has said, stressing that durable peace in

South Asia was possible only through a solution to the problem. Durable peace in South Asia is possible only by an honourable solution of Kashmir issue, Muhammad Mian Soomro, the acting President... told reporters in Jacobabad.

The Indian Express, 20 June 2005

#### **Fidayeen attack on SDPO at Mendhar**

Jammu: Three persons, including two cops died where as six others were injured in a cross-fire that followed the fidayeen attack on the Sub Divisional Police Office at Mendhar in Poonch. The residents of the area said that at around 8:40 pm when the market was closed militants fired few shots, followed by a grenade attack at the Sub Divisional Police Office and in the subsequent exchange of fire, three persons were killed. In the other militancy-related act, one Village Defence Committee member, Ghulam of Bathoi Mahore, was rescued by Police while as two over-ground workers were apprehended by security forces and a large cache of arms recovered. In the last few weeks, the number of persons who have been rescued from the clutches of militants has risen to 9.

The Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2005

#### **Lashkar 'ops chief', PDP leader killed**

SRINAGAR: Ten Police personnel, including two Dy SPs and an SHO, sustained injuries in a clash with the residents of Palhalan village as people of several villages in Pattan alleged that troops had killed an elderly civilian during the course of an operation at Tilgam. Meanwhile, Lashkar-e-Toiba's "operational chief", a leader of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a special police official (SPO) died in other incidents of violence in Kashmir valley since last evening. Official sources, meanwhile, said that in a late night operation, troops of Rashtriya Rifles 06 Bn and Para 04 killed Lashkar-e-Toiba's "operational chief" Chand Babar in a brief encounter at Sirajpora in Vilgam area of Handwara.

The Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2005

#### **Two fidayeens, civilian killed**

JAMMU: Two fidayeens and a civilian were killed and three police personnel were injured when cops repulsed a militant attack at Commando Group and SDPO office in Mendhar town in Poonch district tonight. Both the fidayeens were eliminated after two hours fierce fighting by the police and Commando Group jawans, DIG Rajouri-Poonch range V K Singh said late tonight. Two AK rifles, three grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the slain militants... Meanwhile, two Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of militants have been arrested by the security forces from Chachhal in Banihal tehsil of Ramban police district.

The Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2005

#### **1600 KP families to return in August**

SRINAGAR: The State Government today said it has received about 1,600 applications from those Kashmiri Pandits who are willing to come back to the Valley and announced that the first batch of the members of the displaced community is expected to return in August this year. "There are no hurdles or hiccups in the return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. There are certain vested interests who are trying to sabotage the process, but they will not be allowed to succeed," State Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Hakim Mohammad Yaseen said here. These colonies are expected to accommodate about 500 Kashmiri Pandit families willing to return to the Valley, he added.

The Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2005

#### **Hurriyat's important meeting today**

SRINAGAR: The moderate Hurriyat Conference, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has called an important meeting of its executive council tomorrow to discuss the outcome of the two-week visit of the seven-member amalgam delegation to Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Besides the executive council, the highest decision-making body of the amalgam, the members of the general council and the working committee have been asked to be present in the crucial meeting. They said the visit of the Hurriyat leaders to Pakistan and PoK has been "positive and purposeful". The sources said the visit was important keeping in view the developments in the sub-continent coinciding with the Hurriyat leaders travel to Pakistan and PoK aboard the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus.

The Daily Excelsior, 21 June 2005

#### **Centre rules out Hurriyat involvement in Indo-Pak talks**

DEHRADUN: The Centre today rejected Hurriyat Conference's demand for inclusion in the Indo-Pak dialogue process but said the conglomerate could give its suggestions for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. "There is no question of involving Hurriyat in the Indo-Pak talks," Union Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal told reporters here. However, he said the Centre has opened its doors for Hurriyat to give its suggestions for the

resolution of the Kashmir issue. "Now the onus lies on Hurriyat Conference as to when they want to come forward in this regard," he said, adding the Government was ready to hold dialogue with any group in Kashmir over the issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 21 June 2005

#### **Two Hizbul 'commanders' surrender in Ramban**

JAMMU: Two militants of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit today surrendered before Army and police along with a large quantity of arms and ammunition in Ramban tehsil of Doda district while a teen-age girl was gunned down by the militants and her mother injured in Gool last night. A SPO, who was seriously injured in last night's fidayeen attack at Mendhar, succumbed to his injuries in the district hospital, Rajouri this morning. Army spokesman, Nagrota Corps, Col D K Badola said the militants, who surrendered before senior officers of Army and police, include a 'battalion commander' and a 'group commander'... Militants also attacked a joint patrol party of police and VDC members at Khwas Morh in Lathi area of Rajouri last night.

The Daily Excelsior, 21 June 2005

#### **Pak to apply for Rashid's visit**

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Despite clear indications from India that it would not allow Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed to visit Jammu and Kashmir, Islamabad today said it would forward his name for permission to travel by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30. There are indications that India might not give permission to Rashid, who claims himself to be a Kashmiri, to visit Jammu and Kashmir by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus in the wake of reports that he had organised Kashmiri militant training camps at his farmhouse. Meanwhile, India has not received any application so far from Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid for travelling to Jammu and Kashmir by the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus...

The Daily Excelsior, 21 June 2005

#### **Top Hizb militant killed in Anantnag**

SRINAGAR: In a major achievement, security forces have killed a top wanted militant of Hizbul Mujahideen in Mirbazar area of Anantnag district. Informed sources told the EXCELSIOR that troops of Rashtriya Rifles 09 Bn and 01 Para and District Police Anantnag conducted a joint operation at Nanil near Mirbazar in Anantnag-Qazigund belt this evening. During the operation, troops gunned down a top wanted militant of Hizbul Mujahideen, namely Ghulam Rasool Wagay alias Kachguru... Sources said that Kachguru had been operating as a dreaded militant of Hizbul Mujahideen since 2001. He was allegedly responsible for over 50 incidents of attacks on security forces and Police besides targeting mainstream politicians and surrendered militants.

The Daily Excelsior, 21 June 2005

#### **'No deal in power sector without Kashmir solution'** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said cooperation with India in the power sector was possible only after resolution of outstanding issues, including Kashmir. "The two countries first need to resolve the Kashmir issue and water disputes before even considering such collaboration," foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said yesterday. The two countries are yet to resolve differences over three water projects in Kashmir- Baglihar hydropower project, and proposed Kishanganga dam and Wullar barrage.

The Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **Rashid will 'certainly' go to Srinagar**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that he would "certainly" travel to Srinagar by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30. The minister told a private news channel that the Kashmiris were awaiting him eagerly in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was run for Kashmiris and he was going there to meet his relatives. He added that he favoured a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue, saying, "We should forget the past and try to benefit from the current peaceful scenario."

The Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **Kashmir is not being sidelined in talks: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said that Kashmir is the central issue between it and India and that it cannot be sidelined under any circumstances. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told reporters... that Kashmir was the main focus of talks between India and Pakistan and that it was Pakistan's principled stand that Kashmiris be involved in the dialogue process to find a lasting solution to the dispute... adding, "Pakistan will accept anything acceptable to Kashmiris."

The Daily Times, 21 June 2005

### **Pakistan and India agree on Siachen as peace mountain**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have agreed to introduce more confidence-building measures, with India taking its forces from Siachen to the pre-1984 position. Informed sources told Online that the Pakistani and Indian national security advisers, in a recent closed-door meeting, had agreed to make Siachen Glacier a 'mountain of peace' as desired by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the two countries would take back their forces to pre-1984 positions on the world's highest battlefield. Sources said the Pakistani and Indian security officials also considered various options on Kashmir, agreeing to continue their talks on the issue.

The Daily Times, 21 June 2005

### **Hurriyat has no place in talks: India** (By Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Indian Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal said on Monday that there was no way to include the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in the India-Pakistan dialogue process. However, he said the government was willing to take any suggestions from Hurriyat leaders for Kashmir's resolution. Under pressure from the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian government has decided not to send a formal invitation for talks to APHC leaders, who have just returned from Pakistan. Officials believe that Hurriyat leaders have flouted an "informal understanding" of not going beyond Azad Jammu and Kashmir by travelling to Islamabad and this is believed to be one of the factors for the Indian government to give them a cold shoulder.

The Indian Express, 21 June 2005

### **Pak still runs terror camps: US media** (By Harish Dugh)

Over the recent months Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has grabbed the PR limelight on peace with India. However, like ol' Henry, Pakistan President too is playing a double game. Dove before the media, hawk to the terror brigades. Al Qaeda strongholds in Pakistan's tribal territories, the jihadi training effort has scattered and gone underground, where it is much harder to detect and destroy. . Instead of large and visible camps, would-be terrorists are being recruited, radicalized and trained in a vast system of smaller, under-the-radar jihadist sites. And the effort is no longer overseen by senior Al Qaeda operatives as it was in Afghanistan, but by at least three of Pakistan's largest militant groups, which are fueled by a shared radical fundamentalist Islamic ideology. While officially Pakistan has banned these outfits, yet they continue to proliferate by the simple trick of changing their names. The scenario for India therefore is bleak, as the likelihood of ending terror is nowhere in sight.

The Indian Express, 21 June 2005

### **Four militants bid farewell to arms**

Jammu: After remaining active in the area for a long time, Ashiq Ali, whose father, mother and brother were allegedly 'killed' by some BSF personnel, today surrendered before the police at Batote along with three other militants. One of them is a battalion commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. Today, Ashiq Ali and Mohd Farooq, who entered the world of terrorism in 2003 and were trained locally, formally bid adieu to militancy. Two other militants - Farooq Ahmed and Abdul Qayoom of Dharam, Gool, who belong to the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit - also laid down their arms. Besides the AK 47s, seven AK magazines, 722 AK RDS, one binocular, grenades, laser light, stamp, three dairies, a Hizbul Mujahideen letter pad and some other incriminating material were also surrendered.

The Hindu, 22 June 2005

### **``No role for third party in J&K issue"**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has rejected the former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's assertion that the UPA Government had "mishandled" the visit of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Addressing himself to Mr. Vajpayee's concern over the Hurriyat leaders' visit, Dr. Singh put the visit in context: "You are aware of the fact that in the last four or five years, these leaders have regularly met Pakistani dignitaries visiting India, as well as Pakistani diplomats. In this background, our Government felt that their visit to Pakistan could not do any harm." Dr. Singh stated that by inviting the Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad "Pakistan violated an understanding on these procedures that had been reached between India and Pakistan.

The Daily Times, 22 June 2005

### **APHC leaders' visit beyond AJK:** (By Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: By allowing leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to travel beyond Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Islamabad violated the understanding reached between the two countries on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh... Singh said that the APHC leaders' visit to AJK using the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was cleared on the basis of agreed procedures. "That Pakistan decided to invite them to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding on these procedures that had been reached between India and Pakistan,"...

The Daily Times, 22 June 2005

**No agreement breached: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Tuesday it had not breached any agreement between Pakistan and India by allowing APHC leaders to visit Pakistan. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told BBC that the APHC leaders' visit to Islamabad helped strengthen the ongoing peace initiative between Pakistan and India. He rejected Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement that Islamabad had violated an agreement between Pakistan and India by allowing APHC leaders to visit Islamabad, saying that it was Kashmiri leaders' old desire to hold extensive talks with Pakistani leaders to boost peace between Pakistan and India.

The Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2005

**Pak not allowed to maketalks Kashmir centric: PM**

NEW DELHI: A war of words has broken out on the Indo-Pak peace process with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh rejecting criticism over its handling and the BJP accusing the Government of "transferring initiatives" to Islamabad. Replying to Vajpayee, the Prime Minister said Pakistan's decision to invite Hurriyat leaders to Islamabad and other cities was in violation of the agreement on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service between the two countries. Disagreeing with his predecessor that Pakistan had been allowed to slip out of its promises, Dr Singh made it clear that there was no change in India's stand that the dialogue with Pakistan "is predicated on its (Pakistan's) commitment to end cross border terrorism... Dr Singh said he would like to emphasise that "there is no room in our discussions - or in our actions - for ambiguity regarding our position on Jammu and Kashmir."

The Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2005

**MI-17 crashes in Hill Kaka**

JAMMU: A Russian made MI-17 helicopter of Indian Air Force crashed at Dera Wali in Hill Kaka area of Surankote tehsil in Poonch district this morning causing injuries to 15 persons including two crew members and 13 Army jawans. The crash reportedly took place due to wind turbulence. However, a formal inquiry is likely to be conducted to go into reasons of the crash by the Air Force authorities. Of 15 injured, condition of four of them was stated to be serious.

The Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2005

**9-year-old hanged to death in Pattan**

SRINAGAR: While a class 3rd student has been hanged to death in Pattan area, security forces have killed two militants in an encounter in Chowkibal area of Kupwara district since last evening. Police have registered a murder case and begun investigation. Officials said that the young student seemed to have become victim of his family's hostility with somebody in the same village. They ruled out involvement of militants and described it as a plain murder case. Meanwhile, reports from north Kashmir added that troops of 16-Sikh conducted a search operation in Rangwar forest area of Chowkibal in Kupwara district. During the operation, an encounter took place between the militants and security forces. Sources said that two militants got killed.

The Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2005

**Mufti reviews PM package at high level meeting**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed reviewed the progress on Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan vis a vis various departments of the State Government today at a high level meeting of officers. The Chief Minister was told that of the Rs. 24,000 crore plan, Rs. 18,000 crore are to be spent in the central sector and Rs. 6,000 crore in state sector over a period of four-years. Reviewing the department wise progress, the Chief Minister was told that land has been acquired for the second phase of the Uri hydroelectric project and the Dulhasti project would be completed by the year end. On rural electrification, the Chief Minister was informed that by 2007 all villages in J&K would be electrified. The Chief Minister was told that apart from the current \$ 358 million Asian Development Bank funding, funding for two more sewerage and power projects for the State is in the pipeline.

The Indian Express, 22 June 2005

**Top Hizbul chief among four killed**

Srinagar: Four persons, including a top Hizbul Commander, were killed in different militancy related incidents across the Valley since Monday. A dead body of a student was also recovered by the police in Pattan. Police said security forces got a big break when the troops gunned down a top Hizbul commander at Mir Bazar in Qazigund. In the encounter, Ghulam Rasool Wagay, who was presently operating as battalion commander of Hizbul Mujahideen was killed. An AK rifle, three magazines and 85 rounds of ammunition was recovered from the possession of the militant. In an another encounter between militants and army in Rangwar forests in Trehgam, police said a militant was killed.

The Hindu, 23 June 2005

**Ready for talks, says Hurriyat** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: The moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference on Wednesday said it was ready to hold talks with New Delhi. It has decided to invite leaders from across the Line of Control (LoC), and visit Jammu and Ladakh regions to take the people into confidence. After a marathon meeting of the Hurriyat's general council, working committee and executive council here on Wednesday, the Hurriyat Chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, termed the recent visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as "satisfactory." Negating the view that Kashmiris are not part of the process, Mr. Farooq said representatives of the Kashmiri people have found a place in the dialogue process.

The Daily Times, 23 June 2005

**APHC leaders to woo Hindus back to Kashmir homes** (Associated Foreign Press)

SRINAGAR: Moderate Muslim separatists in Jammu and Kashmir will try to persuade Hindus to return to the homes they fled at the start of the insurgency, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, chief of the moderate faction of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, said on Wednesday. "We will try to bring them back. They are part of us. We are incomplete without them," he added. "We are informally in touch with New Delhi," said Mirwaiz. "We have conveyed to the Indian government that we are ready to carry forward the peace process.

The Daily Times, 23 June 2005

**2 killed, 15 hurt in Kashmir** (Associated Foreign Press)

SRINAGAR: Fifteen people were injured in a grenade blast triggered by suspected militants in Jammu and Kashmir while Indian troops shot dead two militants near the de facto border with Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday. The grenade blast occurred at Bijbehara town, 40 kilometres south of Srinagar, a police spokesman said. "Militants hurled a grenade at a security patrol which missed the target and exploded among the pedestrians in the busy town," he said. Meanwhile, Indian troops late on Tuesday shot dead two militants after they crossed into held Kashmir...

The Daily Times, 23 June 2005

**Rashid to visit Srinagar by next Kashmir bus**

LAHORE: Federal Information Minister Sheikh Rashid will be leaving for Srinagar by the next Kashmir bus from Muzaffarabad, reported the news channel Aaj. The channel quoted a statement issued on Wednesday by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government, saying that Rashid's name had been included in the passenger list finalised for Srinagar. Aaj said the documents required by Indian authorities would be given to them today (Thursday).

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**PM to decide date, venue of talks: Mirwaiz**

SRINAGAR: The Hurriyat Conference today said it is awaiting a formal response from the Centre to its offer of holding an "unconditional" dialogue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at a "date and venue" convenient to him. The moderate Hurriyat leaders have so far held two rounds of talks with the previous BJP-led NDA Government. Mirwaiz Farooq said the onus was now on Centre to decide on the date and venue for resuming the stalled talks aimed at resolving the Kashmir issue. However, he said the Hurriyat Conference favoured an immediate resumption of the dialogue process. Mirwaiz Farooq said the Hurriyat leaders have certain ideas to put forth before the Indian leadership which will help resolve the long-festering issue.

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**Rashid's Kashmir visit uncertain** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Apparently embarrassed over the revelation that he supported Kashmiri militants, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid today said both India and Pakistan should forget "old issues" and move forward with "open hearts" to resolve bilateral problems, including Kashmir. "If we have to move forward, all the issues from Mukthi Bahani camps to Sheikh Rashid's hospitality house have to be forgotten," he said in an apparent reference to the allegation that he had organised a training camp for Kashmiri militants and the Bangladesh liberation war.

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**5 injured in Kishtwar blast**

JAMMU: Five persons including three CRPF personnel and two civilians were injured in a grenade attack on a para-military bunker at Kishtwar Bus Stand at 9.30 pm today. Official sources said an unidentified militant lobbed a grenade on a CRPF bunker and escaped. Three CRPF jawans and two civilians sustained minor injuries in the blast. An encounter took place between security forces and militants at Malhar in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district at 5 pm and lasted two hours.

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**Two militants among 3 killed**

SRINAGAR: Two militants were among three people killed while 20 others were wounded in a grenade attack as ultras abducted a person in Kashmir valley during the past 24 hours, an official spokesman said today. Two militants were killed at Machil in border district of Kupwara early today, official sources said. Militants also kidnapped one Ashiq Hussain, also from Nadihal today. Meanwhile, 20 people, including a Central Reserve Police Force personnel and two teenaged boys, were injured when militants lobbed a grenade on a security patrol at busy Bijbehara... Militants lobbed the grenade on a security patrol around 3 pm today causing splinter injuries to 19 pedestrians and a jawan, the sources said. The ultras involved in the grenade attack escaped from the scene taking advantage of the panic and a hunt has been launched to nab them, the sources said. No militant outfit has so far claimed responsibility for the incident.

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**Amarnath yatra most secular pilgrimage: Governor**

SRINAGAR: Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd) S K Sinha today described Shri Amarnathji Yatra as the most secular pilgrimage in the world, which symbolizes the pluralistic ethos of Kashmir, known as Kashmiriyat... the Governor said that the Holy Cave had been discovered by a Muslim and since centuries Muslims have been greatly contributing in its accomplishment and success. General Sinha said that SASB is not only involved in providing improved facilities for pilgrims going to the Holy Cave but also where possible to help in pilgrimage to Ziarats and temples.

The Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2005

**Aziz terms Hurriyat visit as major CBM** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: Notwithstanding India's contention that Pakistan had violated an agreement by inviting Kashmiri separatist leaders to Islamabad and other cities, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz today said their visit was a "major Confidence Building Measure (CBM)" which could help take the peace process forward. "The Hurriyat visit is a major CBM which had a positive impact in Pakistan," Aziz said... "The process has picked momentum... It cannot be derailed" unless both sides changed their positions, he added. Asked why Islamabad made Kashmir central to the peace process, relegating economic and trade issues, Aziz said Pakistan cannot shift away from Kashmir which has emotional overtones in the country.

The Hindu, 24 June 2005

**Allow Minister on bus: Pakistan** (By B. Muralidhar Reddy )

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday requested India that Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed be allowed to travel on the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30. The Minister allegedly ran a shelter camp for Kashmiris in the late 1980s. According to Government sources, Islamabad decided to go ahead with the request despite clear signals from New Delhi that the Minister was not welcome at this juncture. Mr. Ahmed virtually sealed any chances of clearance with his controversial statement on Wednesday that India and Pakistan would have to leave behind camps run for the Mukthi Bahini by New Delhi and the "guest care" centre he ran for Kashmiris if the peace process has to move forward.

The Hindu, 24 June 2005

**Private power project in J&K** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: To fully exploit the huge potential of its power generation, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has opened the sector to private enterprises. Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for such a project in the remote Ahrabal area of South Kashmir. To be built by Jai Prakash Industries (JPI), this 15 MW hydro-power project will be built, owned, operated and returned (BOOT) to the State after 40 years. This is one of the ten micro-hydel projects that independent power producers (IPPs) would set up under the State's maiden liberal hydro-power policy to get private investment in exploiting the state's abundant water resources.

The Indian Express, 24 June 2005

**Rashid seeks nod for Srinagar trip**

New Delhi/islamabad: India has received an application from Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid seeking permission to travel to Srinagar on the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30. Sheikh Rashid is alleged to have helped train about 3,500 Kashmiri militants in his farmhouse in Peshawar in the 1980s. Though the government is yet to take a decision, it is learnt that the internal security agencies have advised that the permission be refused, given the seriousness of the allegations. Senior government officials said that they would verify Malik's statement and the background of Sheikh Rashid before deciding on the application. Meanwhile, Sheikh Rashid today said in Islamabad that India and Pakistan should forget "old issues" and move forward with

"open hearts" to resolve bilateral problems, including Kashmir.

The Indian Express, 24 June 2005

**Sonia hailed for helping to create peaceful atmosphere in J-K**

Srinagar: Lauding the role of Congress President Sonia Gandhi in helping to create conducive atmosphere, for initiating the dialogue between India-Pakistan and also for starting bus service between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad, Member Parliament and senior Congress leader, Prof Saif-ud-din Soz has said that the peaceful atmosphere is returning in the state with the efforts of Gandhi. Stressing the need for strengthening emerging peaceful situation in the state, Soz said that this would ultimately make gun culture to vanish forever describing visit of Hurriyat leaders to other side of LoC as a welcome step, he called for taking similar other measures to increase people to people contacts.

The Indian Express, 24 June 2005

**Security tightened for Amarnath Yatra** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: Security has been beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure smooth conduct of the nearly two-month-long Amarnath Yatra. Para-military troops and intelligence sleuths have been deployed at various locations and lodging centres in the city as part of the increased security, police said today. Tight security arrangements have also been made at the Mam Stadium, from where pilgrims proceed on their onward journey to the cave shrine as well as Geeta Bhavan and other lodging centres. In order to keep the pilgrims away from any untoward incident related to militancy, the security forces have taken every precaution.

The Indian Express, 24 June 2005

**No troop reduction in J&K** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: Reduction of troops in Jammu and Kashmir depends on further improvement of overall situation in this border state, Union Minister of State for Home Sri Prakash Jaiswal said here today. He said the status quo on deployment of troops would be maintained and both CRPF and BSF would continue to deal with anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir. On the return of displaced Kashmiri migrants, the minister said Jammu and Kashmir government has sent a proposal to home ministry for construction of more complexes on the pattern raised at Sheikhpora in Badgam district. The minister said there is also a proposal for rehabilitation of border migrants of Jammu and Centre would also be providing funds to the state for the purpose.

The Daily Times, 24 June 2005

**Application received: India unlikely to let Rashid visit Srinagar** (By Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed is being refused a permit to travel to Jammu and Kashmir on June 30 by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on the basis that his application does not provide the mandatory addresses of relatives whom he wants to meet. Sources said on Thursday that India wanted to be diplomatic in not raising the issue of the alleged use of his farmhouse for training Kashmiri militants. However, a decision was taken at the prime minister's level to refuse him the bus permit after Sheikh Rashid's statement that he wanted to go to Srinagar to meet hardline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

The Daily Times, 24 June 2005

**Kashmir body unhappy with Rashid's visit**

ISLAMABAD: The special parliamentary committee on Kashmir has expressed strong reservations over Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The committee has also concluded that the visit will confuse the Kashmir issue and the current peace process between India and Pakistan. "The committee also demanded Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri brief the committee about the government's Kashmir policy,"

The Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2005

**Advani warns Centre against ignoring Jammu, Ladakh, KPs in dialogue** (By Dinesh Manhotra)

LAKHANPUR: Contesting representative character of separatists All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC), former Deputy Prime Minister and president of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), Lal Krishan Advani today warned United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government against ignoring Jammu, Ladakh and displaced Kashmir Pandits in on-going dialogue process in solving vexed Kashmir problem. "Centre should not give much importance to the Hurriyat Conference as it does not represent entire Jammu and Kashmir State. There is large chunk of population which is not satisfied with the secessionist ideology of Hurriyat Conference", Mr Advani remarked... He warned that ignoring this large chunk of population in the dialogue process to solve Kashmir problem would prove to be disastrous.

The Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2005

### **Complete power projects in time: CM to engineers**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has stressed the need for time bound completion of power projects in the State... the Chief Minister, who is also the chairman of the corporation, said the deadline fixed for the completion of power projects in the State should be adhered to so that people of the State are able to reap the benefits of these projects. The Chief Minister said preference should be given to private participation in the construction of power projects if the same is expected to be completed in lesser time. Other related matters including infrastructure development were also discussed in the meeting.

The Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2005

### **Forces to smash ultras' camps in Poonch, Rajouri: Jaiswal**

NEW DELHI: Amidst reports from various security agencies about presence of training camps in higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, Government today said a massive combing operation would be launched soon to flush out the militants and destroy their infrastructure. Asked whether it was failure on the part of Army or security personnel in allowing the area to slip into the hands of militants, Jaiswal said "this area was not used for any purpose by anyone" but admitted that it was not in the control of security personnel. Jaiswal refused to get into the controversy as to whether the camps were being run at the behest of Pakistan and said "all will be clear only after we complete the operation."

The Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2005

### **Govt may not clear Rashid's visit** (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Information Minister Sheikh Rashid has sent his application to travel by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30 but he may not get the mandatory clearance from the Government which has taken serious note of reports that his farm house was used for training Kashmiri militants. "We have received Sheikh Rashid's application which will be processed in due course," External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Navtej Sarna said today when asked about the status of his application. Official sources said it was "very difficult at this point of time" to allow Rashid, who claims to be a Kashmiri, to travel to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2005

### **SHO escapes bid on life**

SRINAGAR: A senior police official escaped a bid on his life when militants triggered a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at Nowshera in the downtown city today, official sources said. Suraj Bhan Singh, the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Soura police station, along with his three security guards, was wounded in the attack, they added. The sources said as the bullet-proof vehicle carrying Mr Singh and other police personnel passed through the Nowshera area near the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, militants triggered the IED from a nearby Vechar Nag graveyard this afternoon. The SHO and his three security guards were wounded in the explosion. The vehicle was badly damaged in the attack, they said, adding the wounded have been shifted to a hospital.

The Hindu, 25 June 2005

### **India rejects Rashid's application**

NEW DELHI: India has rejected Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's application to travel by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told mediapersons here on Friday: "The Government of India has processed the application and has declined to accord permission taking into account all relevant aspects involved." Officials here had been indicating informally that given Sheikh Rashid's "role" in "running" these camps, it would be difficult for him to travel to Jammu and Kashmir at this point. Sheikh Rashid said: "The Indian Government's decision to impose a ban on my travel to Srinagar has shocked and saddened me. It has also frustrated people in occupied Kashmir who were anxiously awaiting my visit.

The Hindu, 25 June 2005

### **9 Armymen killed in car bomb blast** (By Shujaat Bukhari)

SRINAGAR: Nine Armymen were killed and 20 others injured when their bus was blown up in an explosion caused by militants on the banks of the Dal Lake here on Friday. They detonated a parked car laden with explosives. The Hizb-ul Mujahideen has owned responsibility for the attack. A Hizb spokesman told a local news agency, CNS, that it was aimed at the army convoy and not at harming the tourist industry. The blast occurred in spite of heavy deployment of security forces and a Road Opening Party, which sanitises the road ahead of any movement by security forces. Though there were many tourists in the area, no one was hurt. For, civilian movement would not be allowed when a convoy was passing by, officials said. "There may be some splinter injuries to some civilians but the target was [the] army convoy," said an official.

The Indian Express, 25 June 2005

### **Ask Pak to stop infiltration: JD-U**

Jammu: ASKING Hurriyat leaders to prove their representative character before entering into any peace process, Pradesh president Janata Dal (United) Sanjesh Gupta on Friday stressed upon New Delhi to persuade Pakistan to stop infiltration of militants into this side of Kashmir. While addressing a meeting of the party activists, Sanjesh Gupta took a dig at the Pakistan's duplicity on the issue of militancy in Kashmir. "In spite of public commitments for not allowing Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) for any terrorist activities, the infrastructure still existed with bids to infiltrate in this side of Kashmir going on,"... He also criticised New Delhi for not giving priority to the basic problem of militancy in the state and other measures to be taken as part of peace process.

The Indian Express, 25 June 2005

### **Army convoy attacked in Srinagar** (By Mufti Islah)

Srinagar: Pakistan-backed militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen struck in a big way in the heart of Srinagar today when they targeted an Army convoy, exploding a car bomb to leave at least nine dead and 16 injured. The attack took place near Nishat Bagh on the banks of the Dal, teeming with tourists. A car packed with explosives blew up around 4 pm just as an Army convoy was passing by. The jawans were travelling in a civil bus and were being escorted by a Quick Reaction Team of the Army. All the injured jawans were shifted to Srinagar base hospital, he said. DIG Hemant Lohia said militants had fitted explosive devices in a car and parked it on the road. According to Lt Col Batra, the militants triggered an IED with the aim of inflicting maximum casualties, both among Armymen and tourists.

The Daily Times, 25 June 2005

### **India rejects Rashid's visit** (By Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: It is official now. India on Friday rejected Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's application to travel to held Kashmir on June 30 by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus. Sources said Rashid's alleged role in providing his farmhouse for training Kashmiri militants as revealed by the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front leader Yasin Malik was enough reason for the Indian Government to stop him from the visit. Sources said Sheikh Rashid had not even furnished in his application addresses of relatives whom he wanted to meet, a mandatory requirement.

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

### **Hizb militants destroy Army bus in massive car bomb explosion 9 soldiers killed, 21 injured in Nishat blast** (By Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)

SRINAGAR: In a powerful car bomb explosion on Srinagar-Nishat-Ganderbal Road, militants today left 9 soldiers dead and 21 others wounded when they destroyed a civilian bus carrying troops near the world-famous Nishat Garden. Informed sources told the Excelsior that militants targeted a convoy of civilians buses carrying troops from Jammu to Mansbal area of north Kashmir... Col Batra said that the troops of different units of Army were returning from leave and were going to join their duty in Mansbal area when militants struck with an IED blast. He said that all the 9 dead and 17 injured were jawans and none of them was an officer. Meanwhile, official sources said that troops of RR 18th Bn killed a Pakistani militant, Abu Niyaz, in an encounter at Dardpora in Kupwara district last evening.

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

### **Govt rejects Rashid's request to visit J&K**

NEW DELHI: India today denied permission to Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid to travel to Jammu and Kashmir by Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30 in the wake of reports that he had helped Kashmiri militants. "The Government has processed his application and declined to accord permission (to him to visit the State) taking into account all relevant aspects involved," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here. Following revelation by JKLF leader Yasin Malik in Pakistan that Rashid had organised a training camp in 1988-89 for 3500 militants at his farm house near Rawalpindi, Government had reacted sharply saying it was a matter of great concern. New Delhi had held that it was particularly serious that "people directly involved in such activities continue to occupy high positions in Pakistan".

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

### **India, Pak swap passengers' list**

SRINAGAR: India and Pakistan have exchanged the list of prospective passengers for the seventh cross-border bus on June 30, sources said today. The Pakistani list of prospective passengers for the seventh "Karavan-e-Aman (caravan of peace)" between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on June 30 included that country's controversial Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, who was today denied permission by the Centre to visit J&K. The sources said India neither gave any new name nor returned any names which were already with the Pakistani authorities for verification.

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

**Moderate Hurriyat insulting people: Geelani**

SRINAGAR: Breakaway Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani today came down heavily on the moderate faction of the amalgam, saying those pleading for a dialogue with the Centre are "sabotaging the Kashmir cause". "Those desparately trying to seek a dialogue with the Centre are responsible for maligning the dignity of the people and the Kashmir cause," Mr Geelani said at a Friday congregation at Kalipora-Shopian in South Kashmir. The Pakistan's Kashmir Committee has accepted the Hurriyat's viewpoint on the Kashmir issue, he added. Mr Geelani reiterated that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

**Denial of permission unfortunate: Hurriyat** (Press Trust of India)

SRINAGAR: Moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference, headed by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, today termed as "unfortunate" India's denial of permission to Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid to travel to Jammu and Kashmir by the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus. Pointing out that the step was "not in good taste", he said the Government should have taken a "considerate decision" in allowing Rashid to visit Kashmir. Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Forum Javid Ahmad Mir also regretted the Government's decision in not allowing Rashid to visit Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2005

**Baramulla preparing for great economic activity: Baig**

BARAMULLA: Minister for Finance and Planning, Muzaffar Hussain Baig has said that with the opening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Road, Baramulla town has regained the status of the gateway to Kashmir and soon it would become a hub of economic activity. Mr Baig said the first and foremost responsibility of the district administration and the inhabitants is to maintain cleanliness in and around the town to create a good impact on the visitors. The Minister during his visit to old town localities expressed dismay over the unhygienic conditions prevailing there and directed the concerned authorities to immediately launch a vigorous cleanliness drive in the area to give a fresh look to the town.

The Hindu, 26 June 2005

**OIC drops Geelani** (Press Trust of India)

ISLAMABAD: The Organisation of Islamic Conference has dropped hardline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani from its guest list and instead invited moderate leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq for its upcoming Foreign Ministers Conference in Yemen.

The Indian Express, 26 June 2005

**Geelani accuses Pak of influencing OIC's move**

Srinagar: Apparently perturbed over not being invited for OIC foreign ministers' meet in Yemen, the hardline Hurriyat Conference today charged Pakistan with using its good offices in getting invitation for Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat from OIC and justifying its decision to recognise that faction as the real one. However, he said he was not worried for not being invited by OIC as Islamic countries have no role with regard to Kashmir issue. Geelani said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have to decide and support the Hurriyat which represents them correctly.

The Indian Express, 26 June 2005

**Rashid row won't hit relations: Pak**

Islamabad: Playing down India's refusal of permission to Information Minister Sheikh Rashid to visit Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has said the decision would not affect the ongoing peace process between the two countries. The announcement came even as Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf said the Indo-Pak peace process was "proceeding well" and that his country sees "light at the end of the tunnel" on efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue. The Indian decision (to deny permission to Rashid) "will not derail the peace process", foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani was quoted as saying today. The Pakistani President did not even refer to the issue.

The Indian Express, 26 June 2005

**Army school teacher among two killed**

TWO persons, including a teacher were killed in different militancy-related incidents across the Valley since Friday evening. Two school boys got injured as they fiddled with a live grenade in Kreeri Baramulla. Police said this morning unidentified gunman fired several bullets over Rubi Jan, who was waiting for a bus at Kulgam. Rubi who was working as a teacher with an army school Bahipora, died on the spot. No militant outfit has claimed the responsibility yet. Rubi, is the second teacher of an army school who was killed by militants. FIVE police

personnel were injured when an improvised explosive device, suspected to be planted by militants, went off at Pangai in Rajouri. The IED which was planted under the tree went off injuring the four personnel of the road opening party (rop) of 6 Bn of India Reserve Police force (IRP).

The Daily Excelsior, 26 June 2005

**No stop gaps, peace process irreversible: Mufti**

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today reiterated that the peace process initiated in the State would progress to achieve the desired results. The Chief Minister said both the countries have realized the ground realities and are on to dismantle the walls of hatred between each other. He said at a time the armies of the two countries were in an eye ball to eye situation but now the atmosphere of hostility has given way to an environment of tranquility between the two neighbouring countries. Referring to the changing world scenario, Mufti Sayeed said even Pakistan President Musharraf has said that "Azaadi" was not acceptable to Pakistan and a solution to Kashmir is to be found which is acceptable to all the concerned. Asking the people to join the peace process, the Chief Minister said people have to be involved in the democratic process where they would be their own masters.

The Daily Excelsior, 26 June 2005

**4 IRP jawans injured in blast**

RAJOURI: Four jawans of Indian Reserve Police (IRP) were injured, two of them seriously, when the militants detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on a culvert at Pangai in Thanna Mandi area of this district today morning. Official sources said the IRP jawans, who were on a routine patrolling in Pangai area near revered Shahdara Sharief shrine, were taking rest on a culvert when a militant triggered an IED blast, reportedly with a remote control device. All four IRP jawans of the patrol party were injured in the blast. Police and security personnel carried out searches in the area but the militant(s) responsible for planting and detonating the IED couldn't be traced.

The Daily Excelsior, 26 June 2005

**Army school teacher among 2 killed**

SRINAGAR: A female teacher of an Army School was among the two people killed and six others, including two teenaged boys, were wounded while security forces seized a large cache of arms and ammunition in Kashmir during the past 24 hours, an official spokesman said today. An unidentified gunman killed 32-year-old Rubaiya Akhtar, teacher of Army goodwill school at Behibagh in south Kashmir district of Anantnag, a defence spokesman said. In another incident some boys found a live grenade at Saloosa-Kreeri in north Kashmir district of Baramulla today. Security forces during a search operation also busted a militant hideout at Reshibal Lal in south Kashmir district of Pulwama today.

The Daily Times, 26 June 2005

**APHC ready for talks with India** (Associated Foreign Press/Reuters)

SRINAGAR: Moderate members of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said on Saturday they were ready to reopen a stalled dialogue with India on the Kashmir dispute as hardliners called such an exercise "meaningless." The call to renew the dialogue aimed at helping resolve the Kashmir issue follows the return of Kashmiri leaders from groundbreaking talks in Pakistan earlier this month. The moderates held two rounds of talks with New Delhi early last year but sought to travel to Pakistan before resuming discussions. Maulana Abbas Ansari, another moderate Hurriyat leader, backed Mirwaiz's call for dialogue.

The Indian Express, 27 June 2005

**Infiltration bid foiled, 3 ultras killed**

Jammu: Security forces today foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control at Kelchian in Naushera, killing three militants who were trying to cross over. Sources said at around 3:30 p.m., the militants had crossed the Line of Control and were 400 metres inside the Indian side. After spotting the militants, the Rajouri division of the Army laid an ambush and killed the two militants. The third militant lost his limb while passing over a mine-field. Security personnel said the bodies of all the three militants have been recovered, but their identity could not be ascertained. A three-year-old girl, Sayeeda Begum, was killed by militants of HuJI outfit at Asthan Mandu in Doda. Militants also killed a special task force person and the security forces recovered a cache of arms at different places.

The Daily Excelsior, 27 June 2005

**We got weapons at Sheikh Rashid's 'Safe House': Waza** (From Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's first militant and JKLF commander, Abdul Ahad Waza, today revealed that the Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid's Rawalpindi mansion was not only used as a guesthouse for Kashmiri recruits but also as an arms storage for the trainee guerrillas in 1987-92 period. He said that Sheikh's

farmhouse at Fateh Jung, known as "Safe House", functioned as a transit camp for JKLF militants organised by Amanullah Khan and the same was guarded by "men of Pakistani Army in civvies". Waza revealed that all the JKLF trainees were lodged at Sheikh Rashid's "Safe House", trained at a Kachgari, given guns and grenades, accommodated back on "Safe House" and sent back to the Valley after taking brief courses of arms training.

The Indian Express, 27 June 2005

**A blast from the past in tourist season** (By Riyqz Wani)

Srinagar: THOUGH authorities are playing down its fallout, the car blast near Nishat Garden on Friday threatens to abort an otherwise promising tourist season. With the scale of damage it caused and its timing and location, the blast, it is believed, packs a loud anti-tourism message which would hardly be lost on the visitors. Though the explosion came as a sequel to many blasts of such nature across Srinagar and recently at Pulwama, which resulted in heavy civilian loss, including children, those occurred in the deep interiors of the city away from the gaze of the tourists. And thus were read as part of the normal daily pattern of violence. The worry is that like previous years, the tourism will follow a predictable pattern of a sudden surge beginning summer and then recede fast following some sensational incidents of violence.

The Hindu, 27 June 2005

**Hurriyat, traders to visit PoK by month-end**

Srinagar: Many separatists leaders and businessmen from Kashmir have submitted the application forms with the authorities here, seeking permit to travel to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the seventh Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus on June 30. Sources said the majority of separatists who have desired to travel in the next cross-border bus are the second rung leaders of the moderate Hurriyat faction led by Mirwaiz Omar Farooq. The sources said the group would try to restore trade links between India and Pakistan through the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. A delegation of writers, led by veteran journalist Ghulam Nabi Khayal, has also applied for travel permit. Several journalists representing national and local media have also submitted their application forms, the sources said.

The Hindu, 28 June 2005

**Kishtwar tense after encounter arrest**

JAMMU: Tension prevailed at Kishtwar town of Doda district on Monday morning when a mob protested against the arrest of a person suspected of harbouring a slain divisional commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen militant outfit. One AK-47 rifle, two grenades, eight gelatin sticks, four detonators, one kg of RDX and one under-barrel grenade launcher were recovered from him. Trouble started when the police arrested Mr. Ahmed. The residents said he was innocent and militants forcibly entered the houses of local residents. In a big protest in the town, slogans were raised against the police.

The Indian Express, 28 June 2005

**Arms stored in Pak minister's home, claims ex-militant**

New Delhi: Substantiating what JKLF chief Yasin Malik had said in Pakistan before retracting, a former militant has claimed that Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid's mansion in Rawalpindi was used as a "guest-house" for Kashmiri militant recruits between 1987 and 1992. Abdul Ahad Waza, one of the first Kashmiris to go across the LoC for arms training, has also claimed that then Pakistani military ruler Zia ul Haq had signed a "memorandum of understanding" with him for recruiting Kashmiris to start militancy in J-K. JKLF trainees were lodged at Sheikh Rashid's "safe-house", trained at Kachgari, given guns and grenades, and accommodation", he has been quoted as saying.

The Indian Express, 28 June 2005

**Take Hurriyat on board, says Mehbooba Mufti** (Press Trust of India)

Dubai: THE ruling PDP in Jammu and Kashmir today favoured taking 'on board' Hurriyat leaders in the ongoing Indo-Pak peace process saying the party cannot think in a 'narrow fashion'. "The Hurriyat leaders are dissidents and they represent a small section of the people. It is necessary to take them on board in order to further the peace process," party chief Mehbooba Mufti told Gulf news in an interview published today. She, however, criticised Pakistan for allowing the separatist leaders to travel beyond PoK. Mehbooba said the issue of visa denial to Pakistan information minister Shaikh Rashid to travel on the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus should be seen against the backdrop of a bigger canvas. Mehbooba said the recent militant attacks reflected desperation of the extremists.

The Indian Express, 28 June 2005

**Flood alert issued in Leh and Doda districts** (Press Trust of India)

Jammu: A flood alert was today issued in Doda and Leh districts of Jammu and Kashmir in view of increasing

level of water in Chenab and Sindh rivers. There is an apprehension of flood in river Chenab which can cause loss to the life and property of the people living near the banks of the river, an order issued by the District Administration Doda said today. Police authorities have been asked to make arrangements for round-the-clock patrolling along the river banks so that the concerned people are timely shifted to safer places, the order said. District Development Commissioner Satish Nehru...said that he inspected all the flood affected areas of Leh town and its vicinity and directed the executing agencies to take all possible measures to protect the property and human lives.

The Daily Times, 28 June 2005

### **Hizb commander among 5 killed in Kashmir** (Associated Foreign Press)

SRINAGAR: A top militant and a young Muslim girl were among five people killed in revolt-hit held Kashmir on Monday, a police spokesman said. Showket Ali, the divisional commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, was shot dead by Indian troops Monday in the southern district of Doda, a police spokesman said. "(Ali's) killing is a major setback to Hizbul," he said. The killing comes three days after the Hizbul claimed responsibility for a roadside car-bomb blast in Srinagar that killed nine Indian soldiers and injured more than 12 others. Elsewhere in Kashmir's Anantnag district, a policeman and a militant were killed in two separate clashes on Monday, police said. Suspected militants also shot dead a Muslim woman and a young girl in two separate attacks in the districts of Kupwara and Doda late Sunday.

The Daily Excelsior, 28 June 2005

### **Two Ministers escape grenade attacks**

SRINAGAR: While two Ministers escaped grenade attacks, one militant, one woman and a personal security officer (PSO) of a Superintendent of Police got killed in militancy related incidents across Kashmir valley since last evening. Informed sources said that three Police guards pounced upon a militant and captured him exactly when he was removing the safety pin of his grenade to throw the explosive device on senior PDP leader and Minister of State for Home... Sources said that troops of Rashtriya Rifles 01 Bn killed a local militant of Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami in an encounter at Gadole in Kokernag area of Anantnag district during last night. Security forces in the entire Kashmir Valley have been kept on maximum alert after some unidentified gunmen forcibly took away a car from a person at Nowgam in central Kashmir district of Badgam last evening, the sources said. In the recent past, militants have used the stolen Maruti cars in triggering IED explosions near the security force camps and installations.

The Daily Excelsior, 28 June 2005

### **Compensate J&K for IWT losses: Mufti**

New Delhi: The Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed emphasized that the time has come for intensifying developmental activities in J&K State as majority of the people have started showing full involvement in this scenario. He said that with personal support of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh the State is moving towards economic assertion. He said the State has started utilizing vast potential of Hydro power available in abundance in the State. Addressing National Development Council (NDC) meeting here today, Mufti Sayeed said that work on Bhagliar project is on and steps are being taken for completion of other Maga power projects like Sawlakote with a capacity of 1200 MWs being set up in the State sector. The Chief Minister said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has taken a positive turn where peace is gaining ground and violence is being condemned by all. He praised Prime Minister for focusing on political and economical development of the J&K State.

The Daily Excelsior, 28 June 2005

### **HM 'div comdr' gunned down in Kishtwar**

JAMMU: A Hizbul Mujahideen 'divisional commander' was gunned down by Army and police in the house of a harbourer at Kundgawani in Kishtwar town in Doda district in early hours of this morning while troops of Poonch Brigade foiled an infiltration attempt on LoC in Mandi sector tonight killing two infiltrators. Another militant was killed in Gool this evening. Tanveer Ahmed Malik, in whose house the militant had taken shelter, has been arrested by the police for questioning... two live grenades, eight gelatin sticks, four detonators, one kg explosives, five meters wire and one UBGL rounds besides some material used in fabricating IEDs was recovered from him. Troops of Poonch Brigade observed an infiltration attempt by a group of four to five militants at on LoC at Sabjian in Mandi sector of Poonch district at 9.15 pm tonight. In the exchange of gun-battle, two militants were killed while others were still trapped.

The Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2005

### **3 houses gutted in fierce gun-battle 3 top LeT militants, two SPOs killed in Bholderwah**

BHADERWAH: Three top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants and two Special Police Officer (SPOs) were killed in a fierce gun-battle at Chakka, about three kms from here, on outskirts of the town tonight. Three houses were

destroyed in a fire which broke out during heavy exchange of firing between the two sides. Two SPOs, who tried to storm inside the house in a bid to kill the militants, were gunned down by an ultra, who jumped out of the house and resorted to indiscriminate firing. A heavy retaliatory firing was brought down by the troops in which all three LeT militants were believed to be killed...All three militants, feared killed in the gun-battle, were dreaded militants of the LeT outfit and were planning to carry out a major strike in Bhandarwah town.

The Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2005

#### **4 soldiers injured in Kupwara shootout**

SRINAGAR: Four soldiers have sustained injuries when militants fired upon an army patrol in Lolab area of Kupwara district today. Official sources said that militants opened fire on a patrol party of Rashtriya Rifles 18th Bn at Tekipora in Lolab valley of Kupwara district in the wee hours today. Sources said that troops retaliated but all the militants in ambush managed to escape without suffering any damage. Tekipora has been a militant infested locality in Lolab where militants had gunned down National Conference leader and then Minister incharge Law, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, in September 2002.

The Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2005

#### **Chenab river swells; foot bridge, labour huts submerge at Baglihar**

JAMMU: Several labour huts, cattle sheds and a footbridge at Baglihar Hydro-Electric Project in Ramban have submerged in the swollen River Chenab, putting project and civil authorities on alert. However, there was no loss of any human life or cattle heads as the authorities concerned acted very swiftly and shifted the labourers of the Baglihar Project to safer places. An alert has also been sounded in those areas within the dam site which can be submerged if the water level of the River Chenab further increases. The Chief Engineer of Flood Control Department said that the department has been monitoring the river round-the-clock. The cause of abrupt rise of water level in River Chenab is attributed to the melting of snow in higher reaches due the past two weeks of scorching heat.

The Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2005

#### **Hawara to be taken to J&K to probe militant links**

NEW DELHI: Jagtar Singh Hawara, chief of Pak-based Babbar Khalsa militant outfit's Indian operation and prime accused in the cinema blasts will be taken to Jammu and Kashmir to probe his alleged links with terrorists there as a Delhi court today extended his police remand by nine days. "During interrogation Hawara revealed his plans to revive terrorism in Punjab and also his links with the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir"...

The Indian Express, 29 June 2005

#### **Valley normal, remove travel advisory, says British MP (By Peerzada Ashiq)**

Jammu: Efforts made for the past two years by J&K Tourism Department (JKTD) to impress upon western countries about the return of peace to Kashmir have finally paid dividends in Britain as the travel advisory to Kashmir is not only being discussed but also considered for a review in the House of Commons. For the first time in Britain's House of Commons (HoC), the travel advisory attached to the Kashmir's visit for the British nationals, was being discussed and considered for a review. During the QSD, Peter Luff remarked that the way in which Pakistan and India were talking about the future of a troubled part (read Kashmir) was hugely encouraging. On travel advisory attached to Kashmir, Luff asserted that it was a matter of concern to him that it was unnecessarily cautious. Buoyed by the development, the JKTD is planning more familiarisation programmes in future in those countries having travel advisory.

The Indian Express, 29 June 2005

#### **Wullar Barrage: India, Pak water secretaries meet (Press Trust of India)**

New Delhi: Water secretaries of India and Pakistan met here today to sort out the differences over Wullar Barrage/ Tulbul Navigation Project on Jhelum river in Jammu and Kashmir. The Water Secretary-level talks are the 10th round of such parleys since 1988, after the dispute arose over the project situated in Jammu and Kashmir. The dispute relates to construction of the barrage to retain enough water level in Jhelum river for a 20-km navigational route between Baramulla and Wullar in the state. Work to construct barrage on Wullar Lake in Baramulla district began in 1984, but it was halted three years later after Pakistan raised objections, dubbing it as a violation of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

The Indian Express, 29 June 2005

#### **Shiv Sena flays Centre, state for promoting Umar Farooq**

Jammu: State Shiv Sena has expressed anguish over the Central Government and state government for promoting Moulvi Umar Farooq, chairman, Hurriyat Conference, to Pakistan for dialogue with separatists as well as with Pakistan and so-called POK government. A meeting in this regard was held at the State Shiv Sena office here today. The leaders demanded that pro-India persons should be deputed for dialogue at Pakistan. They

also demanded that the Central government should depute a delegation of Shiv Sena to Pakistan to access the ground situation and for talks with different groups.

The Indian Express, 30 June 2005

### **2 CRPF men among 6 killed**

Jammu: TWO Central Reserve Police personnel were today killed in an encounter at Bhaderwah. Two militants and two Special Police Officers (SPOs) also died. DIG CRPF, M S Roahil... said the militants belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit were killed said last evening in a joint operation of the police and the CRPF. He said that the building in which the militants were holed up is on fire and search operation is on. Meanwhile, at Pahilgwar Navapachi, security forces rescued a local whom the militants had taken to recruit in their ranks.

The Indian Express, 30 June 2005

### **Chenab rises, 17 villages 'vulnerable'**

Jammu: WITH the water level in Chenab steadily rising, 17 villages in Akhnoor have been declared vulnerable. Also, work at Baghliar project was stalled in the morning for over an hour. In the Akhnoor sector, the water level rose from 29.4 feet on Tuesday to 30 feet today. With the level still two feet below the danger zone, the administration maintained that there was no need to panic. They added that water level is receding in Doda area. But for the last few days, the water level in Chenab has been rising steadily with the snow melting because of the high temperature. Sources said work on the Baghliar project was stalled for some time as the water level rose to 763 metres - over eight meters above the level recorded on Thursday.

The Indian Express, 30 June 2005

### **India, Pakistan fail to break Kashmir dam deadlock** (Reuters)

New Delhi: India and Pakistan failed on Wednesday to break a deadlock in their dispute over a dam New Delhi is building in Kashmir but officials said they had made some progress and planned to hold more talks. India began building the dam in the mid 1980s to help make the Jhelum river navigable through the year but had to suspend work after Pakistan objected saying its water flows would be affected when the river entered its territory and the project violated a water sharing pact. A joint statement said the two sides had agreed to continue discussions at a next round but did not give dates. Under the terms of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, mediated by the World Bank, India has rights over the waters of the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers while Pakistan has rights over the waters of the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum.

The Indian Express, 30 June 2005

### **Protests rock Rafiabad over killing of civilian**

Srinagar: VILLAGERS held strong protests against Rashtriya Rifle against the killing of a civilian and injuring another at Khamio Galibal forests in Rafiabad Baramulla. The villagers were demanding action against the erring army personnel responsible for killing of the civilian. Police, however, said the villager got killed as he failed to halt on the instructions of army patrol which had laid ambush in the area. As the news of Hamid's death spread in the nearby villages, people started protesting against the army. The angry villagers were raising slogans against the ex-army men and counter insurgents working for the 32 Rashtriya Rifles...

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

### **Tulbul issue heading towards settlement**

NEW DELHI, June 29: The two-day talks between India and Pakistan on the Tulbal Navigation project concluded today with the two sides reaffirming their commitment to the 1960 Indus Treaty and carrying forward the discussions to the next round of dialogue. The joint press statement issued said the two sides agreed to continue discussion at the next round of dialogue process with a view to resolve the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Treaty. This is the second river water project that is being discussed for resolution between India and Pakistan. The two countries have also held several rounds of talks on the Baglihar hydro-electric project on Chenab river in the State. In case of both the projects-Baglihar on river Chenab and Wullar barrage on river Jhelum-Pakistan accuses India of violating the Indus Water Treaty saying the projects would interfere with the flow of river waters into Pakistan and adversely affect agriculture in that country. However, India denies the accusation.

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

### **14 injured in grenade attack at CTO**

SRINAGAR: While security forces killed a civilian after suspecting him to be a militant in Baramulla, suspected militants left 14 people, including three Police personnel, wounded in a grenade attack near Central Telegraph Office in this capital city today. A suspected militant lobbed a hand grenade towards CRPF guards near CTO Srinagar at 1145 hours today. It exploded at a crowded spot, causing injuries to three Police personnel and

eleven civilians. In sudden escalation of violence in the Valley, militants have caused as many as 9 major blasts in the last 50 days. Thirty people have died and 322 sustained injuries in these blasts since May 11th, this year. Meanwhile, Police and security forces detected an IED on Central Jail Road in Kathi Darwaza area. The security forces this morning detected and later defused the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) fitted in a gas cylinder and weighing about 5 kg, the sources said.

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

**Two CRPF jawans, civilian killed**

BHADERWAH: Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and a civilian were today killed in encounter with the militants, which started last night, at Chakka, about three kms from this town in Doda district. Official sources said the jawans of 78 CRPF, 4 Rashtriya Rifles, Bhaderwah Police and Special Task Force (STF) resumed the searches at Chakka where two Special Police Officers (SPOs) were gunned down by the militants last night. Also, three Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants were believed to be killed in exchange of firing in which four houses were completely destroyed. According to sources, two militants, two CRPF jawans, a civilian and two SPOs were killed in the operation since last night. Late last night, police had presumed that all three Lashkar militants were killed inside the house since it was badly damaged in the fire.

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

**No incentives to JK industry after 2007** (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI: Centre has decided not to extend financial incentives for setting up industries in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir after 2007. "Incentives that were earlier given for investment in North-East are now being extended to other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir. We informed the Prime Minister that because of this, we are unable to attract investors and need extra incentives," Gogoi told reporters today. "The Prime Minister said that the incentives (for the other States) will come to an end in 2007," he said.

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

**Governor takes stock of tourist facilities at Gulmarg**

Srinagar: Governor Lt Gen (Retd) S.K. Sinha today visited Gulmarg and took stock of the facilities available for tourists at the hill station. The Governor also visited lake area at Gulmarg which is being laid at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore. He also went around the golf course and Kanchanjanga Museum maintained by High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS). The Governor also enquired about the renovation of Gulmarg Palace and said that this could be a tremendous tourist attraction being the heritage home of erstwhile Maharajas. Mr. Shah apprised the Governor about various schemes taken up for upgrading tourist facilities and said that Gandola Development Authority is endeavouring to provide best possible facilities to incoming tourists whose number had significantly increased over the years.

The Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2005

**10 mini hydel power projects coming up in Baramulla**

Srinagar: Under Government's new policy of achieving self-reliance in power generation, 10 mini hydel power projects are being constructed in district Baramulla with a total generation capacity of 32.50 MWs. This information was given at a meeting convened here today by the Minister for Finance and Planning, Muzaffar Hussain Baig to review the progress of works in the district in power sector. The meeting was told that under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), Rs. 401.55 crore are being spent on improvement and modernization of transmission and distribution system in district during the next three years.