

Daily Excelsior, 1 March 2008

4 militants killed in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Feb 29: In a major setback to Hizbul Mujahideen in south Kashmir, Police and Army have killed four Kashmiri militants in an overnight gunbattle at Saidpora in Shopian district

Daily Excelsior, 1 March 2008

893 IT evasion cases unearthed in Valley

JAMMU, Feb 29: The Income Tax Department's first ever initiative to compare data-base of the traders available with the Commercial Taxes Department is all set to tighten the noose around the "habitual" tax evadors in the State with the Department unearthing around 893 cases of tax evasion in Kashmir division

Daily Excelsior, 1 March 2008

Destination No 1

Leh has truly emerged as tourist destination No 1 in the State. While the enchanting Valley is recovering from its worst nightmare and this region thrives on pilgrim tourism the trans-Himalayan part of the State is getting widely noticed because of its idyllic natural possessions. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC-Leh) is jubilant that a record number of more than 50000 tourists have turned up in 2007

The Tribune, 1 March 2008

Budget blues: No relief to sick industrial units

Srinagar, February 29: While the budget 2008-09 has been acclaimed by the industrial sector at the national level, the business community in Kashmir has expressed its dissatisfaction saying it had not come to its expectations to overcome the slump due to the two-decades long turmoil

The Hindu, 2 March 2008

Family reunion across Line of Control after nearly 60 years

Ari (J&K): Softening of the Line of Control (LoC) in this belt of Jammu and Kashmir has finally paid dividends for a Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) Muslim family. It was able to meet its Hindu relatives living on this side of the Line of Control after nearly 60 years

The Tribune, 2 March 2008

Release power reform grant, Azad urges PM

Jammu, March 1: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad had a detailed meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi last evening during which they discussed issues relating to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, including power reform grant, Prime Minister's reconstruction plan and setting up of a 1000 MW thermal power project, an official spokesman said here today

The Tribune, 2 March 2008

Micro-hydel projects lying defunct

Rajouri, March 1: The Army may be claiming to bring light in lives of people living in far-flung villages of this border district by constructing the much-hyped micro-hydel

projects under Operation Sadbhawna, but these have failed to serve the purpose and a majority of them are lying non-functional. Most of these projects were rendered non-functional within a couple of days of their inauguration

The Tribune, 2 March 2008

Train makes 1st trial run in valley

Srinagar, March 1: The much awaited train service to the Kashmir valley had its first 65-km trial run today. The trial run of the train started from the central Badgam district railway station and ended at the Panzgam railway station in south Kashmir's Pulwama district

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

Zardari draws flak for statement on Kashmir issue

SRINAGAR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari's statement that the relations between India and Pakistan will not be made hostage to the Kashmir issue has invited severe criticism from the separatist parties in Kashmir

The Tribune, 4 March 2008

Zardari's statement a positive step: Baig

Srinagar, March 3: The Congress-PDP coalition has hailed the statement of PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussian Baig described Zardari's statement as a positive step. He said the PDP always highlighted the importance of dialogue in resolving all issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir

The Tribune, 4 March 2008

Views "unexpected deviation" from PPP's

Srinagar, March 3: Describing Asif Ali Zardari's views on setting aside Kashmir issue as his personal opinion, the moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference has said the co-chairman's views were an "unexpected deviation" from the Pakistan Peoples Party's Kashmir policy. These views were also not in tune with Pakistan's Kashmir policy, which had been extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris' "freedom struggle" it said

The Tribune, 5 March 2008

Infiltration rate goes up

Mendhar (Poonch), March 4: Army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor is right when he says infiltration bids across the Line of Control (LoC) have increased in the recent past, but it is also true that the successful infiltration rate has also registered a rise. The intelligence sources confirmed that though the infiltration bids have increased in the recent past, the infiltrators have managed to successfully sneak to this side of the LoC in the districts of Rajouri and Poonch

Daily Excelsior, 6 March 2008

Leaders all fire but Kashmiris indifferent to PPP's prescription of hibernation

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: With the main ruling party, Congress, tightlipped and the main opposition outfit, National Conference (NC), jubilant inspite of Abdul Rahim Rather's

negative statement on Monday, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairperson Asif Ali Zardari's suggestion of putting the Kashmir problem in hibernation for the generation next has ruffled the feathers of a many political and militant leaders in the Valley. People at large, however, have not come out so far either with bouquets or with brickbats for Mr Zardari

The Tribune, 6 March 2008

2 LeT ultras shot

Srinagar, March 5: Two LeT militants who were conspiring to kill Bandipora MLA Usman Majjid during a political rally, were killed today, sources in the Army said. Sources said they had received inputs about the threat to Usman Majjid, who was a militant-turned politician, and troops of the 23 Punjab and the 10 Para launched an operation in the Argam area. The militants were trapped in a house and an encounter ensued between them and the troops

The Hindu, 7 March 2008

OPINION: Kashmir liberated, others languish (Beena Sarwar)

One would expect the liberation of Kashmir to dominate world news. But on March 3, the freedom of Kashmir that eclipsed all else on the Pakistani news channels was the release of Kashmir Singh, the Indian death row prisoner convicted of espionage after having been arrested in 1973 (the year Pakistan got a constitution)

The Hindu, 8 March 2008

Asma Jahangir calls on J&K leaders

FIELD ASSESSMENT: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad with Special Rapporteur of the U.N. Asma Jahangir at his official residence in Jammu on Friday. Jammu: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Asma Jahangir, who is on a fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir, called on Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday. The visit has attracted attention in the State and across the country as this is a rare occasion when the Centre has allowed a U.N. rapporteur to make a field assessment in Jammu and Kashmir

The Tribune, 8 March 2008

Peace prevails in border villages

Manihari (Kathua-Hiranagar sector), March 7: After a truce accord between India and Pakistan on November 23, 2003, calmness prevails in villages near the international border (IB) in the Kathua-Hiranagar sector. Villagers have heaved a sigh of relief and it has given them a reason to smile. People don't want to relive the horrifying days when Pakistani bullets unleashed a reign of terror

The Tribune, 8 March 2008

60 years on, refugees still remain "outsiders"

Jammu, March 6: For the past more than 60 years, Jammu has become one of the major hub for the refugees who got displaced from their homes for one reason or the other. The first such migration to Jammu took place 60-years-ago during independence that led to the country's partition

Daily Excelsior, 8 March 2008

4 militants killed in Valley

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: Police and Army have killed four militants in two separate gunbattles in Bandipore and Handwara areas in north Kashmir since last evening. Informed sources told EXCELSIOR that the overnight operation of the troops of 23-Paunjab and 10-Para (Special Force) concluded in the afternoon today as both the holed up militants got killed

The Hindu, 9 March 2008

Locals preparing to take on militants in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir.

NARKOTE: In these remote hilly hamlets of Jammu and Kashmir, a new tale of battle against militancy and religious extremism is being scripted by a former militant trained by the Hizb-e-Islami (HeI) outfit on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. He now leads a frontal assault against his former colleagues

The Asian Age, 10 March 2008

OPINION: Hurriyat does not want to face facts (Kuldip Nayar)

The predicament of Kashmir's All Parties Hurriyat Conference is that its leaders want to be everything to everybody. They will not do anything which may be interpreted as pro-India. Nor can they afford to tilt towards Pakistan openly because that New Delhi will not accept. True, Kashmiris wanted to be independent, but this demand was not acceptable to either India or Pakistan. Therefore, the Hurriyat ended up putting all its eggs in Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's basket. Musharraf has suggested some territorial adjustments and has talked of the irrelevance of the border

The Tribune, 10 March 2008

89 pc nomad Gujjar women illiterate: Study

Srinagar, March 9: Compared to the relative emancipation of their urban counterparts, lakhs of nomadic Gujjar women belonging to backward and remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir are living in what could be called the dark ages, plagued by early marriages, illiteracy and extreme poverty, a study by the Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation states

The Tribune, 10 March 2008

HuJI recruitment going on unabated in Kishtwar

Udhampur, March 9: Blacklisted by the United States as global terrorist organisation a silent recruitment for Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HuJI) outfit has been going on unabated in some remotest areas of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir

The Tribune, 10 March 2008

Asma's visit triggers another war of words

Jammu, March 9: The visit of Pakistan Human Rights Commission chairperson and UN rapporteur on freedom of religion and faith, Asma Jahangir, to the valley brought to the fore sharp ideological differences between the moderates and the hardliners in the Kashmiri separatist camp. While the hawks among the separatists refused to meet Asma

Jahangir on the plea that she was an Indian agent the moderates had no qualms in interacting with her on various issues, including the Kashmir dispute and the human rights scenario in the valley

Daily Excelsior, 12 March 2008

HM comdr reveals strong political connections

JAMMU, Mar 11: Mumtaz Ahmed alias Tahir Siddiqui, a district commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, who had been operating in Arnas-Mahore-Gool-Gulabgarh belt for last more than a decade and was involved in several militant activities, has admitted having strong political connections. Mumtaz had surrendered before Reasi police, Army and BSF on Sunday along with a battalion commander of the outfit, Anzar Ahmed alias Arslan, a resident of Kenthi, Mahore

Daily Excelsior, 12 March 2008

Third Front will emerge shortly in J&K: Mir

JAMMU, Mar 11: Former People's Democratic Party (PDP) Minister Ghulam Hassan Mir has said that a Third Front would emerge soon in Jammu and Kashmir before coming Assembly elections. Mr Mir, who was expelled from the Party hardly two days back told at "Meet the Press" program held at Press Club Jammu that the Third Front would come out as big force after Assembly elections and would play crucial role in the State politics in coming months

Daily Excelsior, 12 March 2008

Work on Anantnag-Rajvanshar complete

JAMMU, Mar 11: The summer capital of the State is likely to witness chugging of regular trains during the peak tourist season as work on Anantnag-Rajvanshar project has been completed and final inspections of the track will be conducted during next two months. Authoritative sources told the EXCELSIOR that all sorts of work on 75 kilometre Anantnag-Rajvanshar rail line has been completed by the IRCON India International, a Government of India Enterprise, and now the executing agency was primarily focusing on finishing work wherever required

The Tribune, 13 March 2008

Poonch, Rajouri troops being shifted to valley

Rajouri, March 12: More than three months after the Army shifted Nariyan-based 27 Infantry Division to the North East, it has filled the gap by shifting two units to the area for guarding the Line of Control (LoC). It is also shifting two units one each from frontier districts of Poonch and Rajouri to the valley

Daily Excelsior, 13 March 2008

LoC crossing becomes a tough option: 3 major militant outfits opt for local training

JAMMU, Mar 12: With exfiltration and infiltration becoming a "tough option" for the militants due to fencing on Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) besides installation of sophisticated gadgetry, three major militant outfits including Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen have started running the training camps within the State to train fresh lot of militants. According to Intelligence

reports, the "recruitment commanders" of the militant outfits were hesitant to take risk of exfiltration of newly recruited youths to PoK for training and then ensuring their safe infiltration to join militancy

The Hindu, 17 March 2008

Geelani for stability in India and Pakistan

SRINAGAR: The chairman of the hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Geelani, on Sunday said that while he was for a stable Pakistan and equally wanted stability in India. He however said that Kashmir dispute was the main hurdle and it had to be resolved in accordance with aspirations of people

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

Lt Colonel, Lashkar Valley chief killed in gunbattle

SRINAGAR, MARCH 16 : A Lieutenant Colonel and an Army jawan were killed on Sunday when security forces launched a joint operation against militants at Rafiabad in Sopore during which Hafiz Nisar, said to be the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) chief in the Kashmir valley, was shot dead. The operation was carried out by the J-K Police, Army and CRPF

Daily Excelsior, 17 March 2008

Valley to have longest tunnel in rail network

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: With an aim to connect the Kashmir valley with the rest of the country through rail link, work on a 11-km tunnel "the longest in Indian railway network" is being carried out between Banihal and Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

Stone laid for J&K trade centre

PAMPORE (KASHMIR): Trade in Jammu and Kashmir is set to get a boost with the laying of the foundation stone for a Rs. 115.84-crore International Trade Centre (ITC) here. To be completed in two years, the ITC will be the first of its kind in the State with state-of-the-art exhibition halls, facilitating international exhibitions in the Valley during summer. The Centre had allocated Rs. 30 crore initially for the project, said Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad

The Indian Express, 18 March 2008

Trade across LoC in 90 days: Ramesh

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce Jairam Ramesh on Monday said trade with Pakistan across the Line of Control (LoC) will start within 90 days. Ramesh said Pakistan has agreed to trade on nine items once the new government takes over in Islamabad. "We want to get it off the ground as soon as possible. And the signals from Islamabad say they too are keen," Ramesh said

Daily Excelsior, 18 March 2008

Troops forced to wear defective boots, socks in Siachen

New Delhi, Mar 17 : Troops deployed at Siachen have been forced to wear defective and inferior quality boots and woollen socks to fight extreme cold climatic conditions in the

world's highest battlefield by the authorities in the Udhampur-based Northern Command during the past several years, according to CAG

Daily Excelsior, 18 March 2008

Tarigami hints at re-alignment, emergence of Third Front

JAMMU, Mar 17: Hinting at the emergence of Third Front and possible participation of the Hurriyat Conference in the coming Assembly elections the State secretary of CPI (M) and MLA Kulgam Mohd Yousuf Tarigami has said that process of re-alignment of various political groups has set in motion. Addressing press conference here today the CPI (M) leader said that his party sees more transparency in the upcoming elections and those, who remained out of focus in 2002 elections and even before, would be participating this time

Tribune, 19 March 2008

GenNext Kashmiri leaders to slug it out in Islamabad

Jammu, March 18: Their sharing a common platform might be rarest of the rare moment. NC president Omar Abdullah, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Hurriyat Conference chairman Maulvi Umar Farooq and Peoples' Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone would discuss the issue of regional stability at the Pugwash International Conference being held at Islamabad, Pakistan on March 28 and 29. While Mehbooba had already confirmed here participation, there were doubts about Omar attending the conference. However, the National Conference today clarified that he would be attending the conference this time also

Tribune, 19 March 2008

Buddhists express sympathy with Tibetans

Leh, March 18: Thousands of Buddhists, including monks, took to streets here on Monday to express sympathy with the Tibetan people. The town witnessed a complete shutdown as a mark of protest against the killing of Tibetan monks and demonstrators in Tibet's capital Lhasa

Daily Excelsior, 19 March 2008

Hurriyat, Jamaat condemn 'attack' on Bar

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: Both factions of the separatist Hurriyat Conference have joined hands to condemn what they call "murderous attack of communal elements" on a delegation of Srinagar-based High Court Bar Association (HCBA) at Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu on Monday. HCBA has not only called for a shutdown of courts in protest but has also begun to draft a writ petition against the jail authorities, holding them responsible for organizing the attack and thus preventing the lawyers from meeting with the detainees

Daily Excelsior, 19 March 2008

Poonch-Rawlakote road to be used for cross-LoC trade: CM

Peeri (Rajouri), Mar 18: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said the Government has accorded urgency to development of backward and far-off areas, saying that the State was going through an era of "unprecedented infrastructure expansion" across the cities and hinterland. Addressing a public meeting in this far-off village, still not connected by

road and where no Chief Minister had reached so far, Mr. Azad said sectors like road connectivity, drinking water, education, healthcare and power were witnessing unprecedented development activities. He said significant aspect of development offensive launched by his Government was that building of critical infrastructure had, for the first time, been extended to remote villages where people had started harvesting the benefits

Tribune, 20 March 2008

Hizbul chief admits to Pak military support in Kashmir

Jammu, March 19: In an apparent message to the new Pakistani regime led by the Pakistan People's Party, the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) chief and the chairman of the United Jihad Council (UJC) Sayed Salahuddin has said Pakistan could not stop supporting the Kashmiri militant groups. In an interview with a the private television channel, Times Now, the UJC chairman even admitted that Pakistan has continuously been providing both military as well as political support to the Kashmiri militants

Tribune, 20 March 2008

Four LeT ultras killed

Udhampur, March 19: Four militants of the Laskher-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit, including a foreigner, were killed by security forces in Gandoh area of Doda district today. Two police personnel and one Army jawan were also injured in the encounter which lasted for more than 14 hours

Hindu, 20 March 2008

25 injured in Srinagar explosion

SRINAGAR: Breaking a five-month lull in Srinagar, militants on Wednesday made an abortive bid to blow up the only flyover in the city by exploding an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). It caused injuries to 25 people, mostly civilians, of whom three are in critical condition. According to the police, the IED was kept beneath an observation post on the flyover being manned by the CRPF. Witnesses said the IED exploded with a big bang and shook the entire area

Daily Excelsior, 20 March 2008

Azad invites all political parties to join poll fray

Sopore, Mar 19: Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad today said the forthcoming elections in the State would be most free and fair and invited all political parties to join the fray. He said those who were afraid of fighting elections use the pretext that these might not be free and fair

Daily Excelsior, 21 March 2008

New airports, modernisation on anvil

JAMMU, Mar 20: Jammu & Kashmir is all set to have a massive facelift in Civil Aviation sector with all airports in the State being modernised and air connectivity extended to some new areas. On the persuasion of Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Airport Authority of India (AAI), is working on development of airports in the State on a fast track basis. Apart from building an international airport terminal at Srinagar, the

AAI is also building new terminals and extending runways at Leh and Jammu. The extension of runway of Kargil airport and extension of Kishtwar air strip is also in the pipeline

Tribune, 21 March 2008

Rs 23-cr bridge over Chenab set for commissioning

Jammu, March 20: At last the Border Roads Organisations has been able to construct a bridge across the river Chenab in Akhnoor. While the bridge was completed possibly in briefest period of just 20 months, but it was after 20 long years, since the work on the bridge was started first, that a bridge came up finally over the river. Governor Lt-Gen S.K. Sinha (retd) on visited Akhnoor yesterday and inspected the state-of-art bridge over River Chenab completed at a cost of Rs 23 crore. The bridge has been completed within a record period of about 20 months. The work started in April 2006 and was completed last month

Tribune, 21 March 2008

HM proves point with blast

Srinagar, March 20: Amidst talk of its marginalisation, Kashmir's premier militant outfit, the Hizbul Mujahideen has tried to show that it still has capability to strike in the heart of the city, the police believed. It's not often that outfits like the HM, which draws their strength from locals' sympathy, own up to a botched blast like yesterday, whose victims were innocent civilians, as it could alienate locals.

Daily Excelsior, 21 March 2008

Editorial: Remove the anomaly

It is high time that all political parties in the State sat together to end the discrimination being faced by the 1947 migrants from Pakistan. Since they are not being absorbed as permanent residents of this State they are being denied all basic facilities. They can't acquire property. They can't mortgage the land in their possession for raising of loans. They are not considered eligible for loans. They include a sizable chunk of the members of scheduled castes. But they are not entitled to reservation quota. A corollary is that their children are not permitted to join government professional or technical educational institutions. It is only too well known that they are barred from exercising their franchise in the Assembly elections

Hindu, 22 March 2008

Mirwaiz: poll no substitute to resolution

SRINAGAR: Chairman of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday declared that elections were not a substitute to the resolution of Kashmir issue. On his return from his two-month-long foreign visit, the Mirwaiz told a Friday congregation at Jamia Masjid that his party would launch a sustained diplomatic initiative to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level. This issue was already among the priorities at the world level and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was concerned about it

Tribune, 22 March 2008

Jammu traders feel left out

Jammu, March 21: While businessmen in the Kashmir valley have welcomed the statement of the Union minister of state for commerce and industry, Jairam Ramesh, about the opening of trans-LOC trade between the two parts of divided Kashmir within the next three months, Jammu-based businessman on Wednesday alleged that no steps had been taken to mitigate the opening of trade routes in the Jammu region

Hindu, 23 March 2008

Mughal Road to be ready this year

Mughal Road to be ready this year Poonch: The road which Mughal emperors used every summer to escape from Delhi's blistering heat to the cool environs of the Kashmir Valley would be ready by year-end. This was announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad

Daily Excelsior, 23 March 2008

Opinion: Echoes of 'dynastic' democracy in J&K (Dr. Jitendra Singh)

Opinion: Echoes of 'dynastic' democracy in J&K (Dr. Jitendra Singh) People's Democratic Party (PDP)'s former leader Ghulam Hassan Mir's banner of revolt against dynastic rule in democracy triggers interesting connotations. Mir describes PDP as a "Mufti fiefdom" making it in no way different from National Conference (NC) which according to him was the earlier version of family fiefdom that people had sought to get rid of. Even more interestingly, Mir's outrage directed against what he describes as "father-daughter" party PDP and "father-son" party National Conference has received a rejoinder not from Mufti Sayeed or Mehbooba Mufti who were his initial targets but a rejoinder has come from Farooq Abdullah who was the implied target

Rising Kashmir, 23 March 2008

China, Iran exploiting Indo-Pak conflict

Srinagar, March 22: The slowed down Indo-Pak peace process is likely to break down if the unrest in Tibet and the resulting friction between China and India persisted for too long. Keen watchers of South Asia believe that regional powers including China and Iran may try to achieve their foreign policy goals by entering into Kashmir conflict. Many observers fear if India continued to play host to the Tibetan leader Dalai Lama, who was forced into exile by China in 1959, Beijing will not allow to succeed any sort of peace process between India and Pakistan

Rising Kashmir, 23 March 2008

Editorial: What has changed in and around Jam'at e Islami

Editorial: What has changed in and around Jam'at e Islami When the statement of Amir-e- Jam'at appeared in the local press that Jam'at e Islami will not actively participate in the campaign aimed at persuading people for not taking part in the up coming elections, it came as a surprise for many. Although the statement of the President of the Jam'at-e-Islami was highlighted in a way as if this party was against those who have decided to undertake a campaign to desist people from participating in the electoral politics; party chief had to do a bit a clearing subsequently

Times of India, 24 March 2008

Yasin Malik wants to repair Hindu-Muslim ties in Valley

NEW DELHI: Militancy in Kashmir, which started in 1989, took a toll on the Muslim-Hindu cohabitation in the Valley that formed the basis of Kashmiri culture. Realising that the process of resolving the Kashmir issue will now have to include the Kashmiri Pandit community as part of the Valley's mainstream in India's only Muslim-dominated state, JKLF chief Yasin Malik has started an initiative to rebuild the bonds between the two communities that had frayed over the years of militancy

Times of India, 24 March 2008

Mughal Road: A blast from the past

Work on the Mughal Road has re-started after it was halted briefly following protests by conservationists that it would pass through a wildlife sanctuary. Conservationists say the project would disturb the highly-endangered Markhor goat's habitat. The environmental clearance was also not in place and the road was being constructed without an environment management plan

Tribune, 24 March 2008

Govt plans tunnel near Zojila Pass

Srinagar, March 23: The Jammu and Kashmir government is actively considering a project and had taken up the matter of constructing a tunnel near Zojila Pass for keeping Srinagar-Leh road open round the year, said finance minister Tariq Hameed Karra. He was speaking at an annual day function held at State Institute of Education organised by All Kargil Students Union, here today

Daily Excelsior, 24 March 2008

Panel for steps to arrest slow death of Dal lake

NEW DELHI, Mar 23: Expressing concern over the "slow death" of the Dal Lake in the Kashmir valley, a Parliamentary panel has asked the Ministry of Environment and Forests to ensure that an effective method for disposal of wastes from households in the lake is put in place within a fixed time schedule

Rising Kashmir, 24 March 2008

Farooq traded autonomy for power, talks with Hurriyat (M) held within Indian constitution

Srinagar, March 23: Former deputy prime minister and BJP's prime ministerial candidate L K Advani has made startling revelations about Kashmir in his just released book "My Country My Life&. He has narrated how National Conference "compromised& on autonomy and has rejected the claim of moderate Hurriyat leaders that New Delhi had agreed to talk on any "proposal" outside the ambit of Indian constitution

Rising Kashmir, 24 March 2008

Editorial: Ignoring Assets

Over the last few years the State government has been experimenting new ways to boost the economy of the State. This has involved on ground measures; some practicable, some only on papers and lots more restricted to rhetoric only. New ideas, projects and various

schemes are announced by the government day in and out. More so when the elections are round the corner.

Tribune, 26 March 2008

Autonomy row: Advani lying, says Farooq

Srinagar, March 25: National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah said LK Advani was

lying in his memoirs in which he said Abdullah accepted the then NDA government's decision of rejecting his autonomy proposal and preferred to remain in power. In a hurriedly called press conference at his residence yesterday evening, he admitted that the BJP had rejected the autonomy proposal initially but both PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his deputy Advani assured him to look into it when he decided to withdraw support

Daily Excelsior, 26 March 2008

Implement WG recommendations: Mufti

Pulwama, Mar 25: Welcoming the formation of a new Government in Pakistan,

People's Democratic Party (PDP) Patron, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said the stabilization of democratic and political institutions in that country has rejuvenated the hope for a peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue. "With the political situation evolving positively in Pakistan, I see hope in the air and promise in the environment for the people of Jammu & Kashmir," he said

Daily Excelsior, 26 March 2008

Editorial: Comes the summer

Clearly the militants have served a notice that the summer is around the corner especially in the Kashmir region. They have struck twice within a span of four days last week in the Summer Capital of Srinagar. In the latest incident two of them belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) have killed three police men and a constable of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The encounter lasted several hours in Kashi Mohalla of Dangarpura in the Dal Lake periphery of Telbal early on Sunday. From their hidden place the duo opened heavy volume of gunfire and lobbed hand grenades in all directions

Tribune, 27 March 2008

A trade that crosses enemy lines

Abdullian (Indo-Pak border), March 26: Situated on the Zero Line between India and Pakistan, Abdullian village has become famous, thanks to the narcotic trade between the two countries. Though soldiers of the Border Security Forces (BSF) deployed to guard the international border between the two countries claim that they had successfully curbed the menace of drug peddling in the village, sources said drug peddlers had adopted various other means to peddle narcotics

Daily Excelsior, 27 March 2008

Farooq for KPs' return, rehabilitation

JAMMU, Mar 26: National Conference (NC) will keep the honorable return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits to Valley as well as the recruitment of community

youth in Party's election manifesto. This was stated by the NC patron and former Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah while addressing a meeting of Kashmiri Pandits at Udaywala, Bohri this afternoon

Rising Kashmir, 27 March 2008

Kashmir's Tibetan refugees stage anti-China protests

Srinagar, March 26: A group of Tibetan refugees protested against the Chinese government to express their support for Tibet's freedom struggle here Wednesday. The members of Tibetan Refugee Sweater Sellers Association (TRSSA) Srinagar gathered near Ghanta Ghar (clock tower) in Lal Chowk and marched peacefully through Regal Chowk to Dalgate. The protestors did not raise any slogans but were heard murmuring prayers for stability to return to Tibet

Tribune, 28 March 2008

Central nod to ease travel restrictions

Jammu, March 27: Even as modalities for trans-border trade with Pakistan are being worked out, the UPA government has given its go-ahead to the coalition government to ease travel restrictions so as to see more people of Jammu and Kashmir visiting PoK by bus. With process already in the pipeline a long cherished dream of the people of Jammu and Kashmir may become a reality by next month

Asian Age, 29 March 2008

Pak pullout if India agrees to plebiscite, claims Geelani

"If New Delhi accepts before the international community that Kashmir is disputed and acknowledges the right to self-determination of its people and also agrees to the holding of the promised plebiscite to allow them determine their political future, I'm confident we would persuade Pakistan to pullout its troops from the other Kashmir," Geelani said

Asian Age, 29 March 2008

Mehbooba meets Zardari, seeks solution

Srinagar, March 28: People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti, who met Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Friday, asserted that the political situation in the neighbouring country has become stable "rejuvenating hope for a peaceful and amicable settlement of the Kashmir issue with greater impetus on the J&K-specific confidence building measures"

Tribune, 29 March 2008

No takers for Geelani's door-to-door campaign

Srinagar, March 28: An atmosphere of relative peace leading to increasing public interaction of mainstream political parties has pushed extremist separatist leaders like S.A.S. Geelani into going out of his way to galvanise his support for electoral boycott of impending elections. But it is not eliciting the kind of response they would have liked

Daily Excelsior, 29 March 2008

We want guns to rust: Zardari: Mehbooba-PPP leader meet for half an hour

ISLAMABAD, Mar 28: Voicing Pakistan's resolve to move forward on the Kashmir

issue through a peaceful dialogue with India, PPP chairman Asif Ali Zardari today said "action" should be taken on existing Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) which will be taken to Parliament. The PPP's Kashmir policy and the existing CBMs will be taken to Parliament after discussions with the party's "senior partners", Zardari said, adding "we want the guns to rust."

Hindu, 30 March 2008

JKLF rejects bilateral accord as solution

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Mohammad Yasin Malik on Saturday rejected any bilateral agreement between New Delhi and Srinagar as a solution to the Kashmir issue saying that it can only be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people. Inaugurating a two-day photo and video exhibition of his 'Safr-e-Azadi (Journey for Freedom)', Mr. Malik said the 1989 armed rebellion was a peoples' movement, and it was the outcome of a serious approach towards the problem. He said any accord on the lines of 1975 would not be acceptable to the people of Kashmir

Tribune, 30 March 2008

Srinagar-Leh highway to open soon

Srinagar, March 29: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Jammu and Kashmir is working against odds in tough terrain to throw open the snow-blocked Srinagar-Leh highway linking Ladakh region to rest of the country. The BRO personnel are assigned with the task of clearing the snow-bound stretch across Zojila along the 434-km-long Srinagar-Kargil-Leh Highway

Daily Excelsior, 30 March 2008

Gillani trumpets Pak's old stand on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Mar 29: In his first policy statement, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani today trumpeted Pakistan's long-standing policy on Kashmir saying "sacrifices" of Kashmiri people will not go waste and their "aspirations" will be taken on board while resolving the vexed issue

Rising Kashmir, 30 March 2008

Sonia stresses collective effort for total peace in JK

Srinagar, March 29: UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi today said there was decline in militant activities in Jammu Kashmir and stressed upon the need for a collective endeavour to bring about total peace in the state. 'There is much less tension in this area (JK) now. Let us all work together to bring about complete peace in the state,' Gandhi said after inaugurating the Kashmir's tulip garden today

Daily Excelsior, 31 March 2008

Omar opposes keeping Kashmir in deep freeze

ISLAMABAD, Mar 30: Opposing suggestions that the Kashmir issue should be "deep frozen", National Conference president Omar Abdullah today claimed that PPP chairman Asif Ali Zardari's stand that Indo-Pak ties should not be held hostage to the dispute had little support in Pakistan and J&K. Such a stand would be the "option of the last resort" for the National Conference. "Besides, there is no guarantee that a future generation will

be better (at resolving the issue)," Omar, the son of former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, said on the sidelines of a Pugwash conference here

Daily Excelsior, 31 March 2008

Include militant groups at Pugwash: Mehbooba

ISLAMABAD, Mar 30: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has expressed the hope that the organisers of the next Pugwash conference would invite "all separatist and militant groups", especially the Hizbul Mujahideen so that a "broad consensus" could be achieved on the vexed Kashmir issue. "...I am sure next time we would like to share this platform with the representatives from all the separatist and militant groups especially Hizbul Mujahideen to evolve a broader consensus for the peaceful resolution of the problem that has brought catastrophic disaster to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and marred the region's economic growth," Mufti said in a paper at the two-day Pugwash conference held here