

Daily Excelsior, 1 May 2007

**Afzal withdraws plea on confinement**

New Delhi, Apr 30: Mohd Afzal, the Jaish e Mohammed JeM militant sentenced to death for plotting attack on Parliament in 2001, today withdrew his petition in which he had sought an end to his solitary confinement in Tihar jail. Afzal had last month moved an application before Additional Sessions Judge Ravinder Kaur seeking his transfer from a solitary ward in Tihar jail to a general ward. He had contended that his continuous solitary imprisonment was leading to mental complications..

The Tribune, 1 May 2007

**Amnesty package for misguided militants (SP Sharma)**

Jammu, April 30: An unconditional dialogue with terrorist groups for finding a sustainable solution to the problem of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir has been recommended by one of the five working groups WG on Kashmir, set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The WG headed by Mohammad Hamid Ansari on confidence building measures across segments of the society in the state has recommended that cases of all persons in jails should be reviewed and general amnesty given to those under trial for minor offences. Upholding the demand of the PDP leader Mufti Mohammed Sayeed and certain other parties, the WG has recommended that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act AFSPA, Disturbed Area Act and other laws made operational during terrorism, which impinge on fundamental rights of citizens and adversely affect the public, should be reviewed and revoked..

Greater Kashmir, 2 May 2007

**Qayyum, Azad call for trans LoC trade**

New Delhi, May 1: In their first ever meeting, Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and former Pakistan Administered Kashmir PAK president Sardar Qayyum Khan today favoured strengthening ties and beginning trade across the LoC. We want to improve relations between Kashmir and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. We want to develop trade, tourism and culture, and both the sides are unanimous on improving and strengthening relations, Azad said after the more than hour-long meeting here. Azad said he had urged Khan to facilitate trade activities.

Daily Excelsior, 2 May 2007

**Overcome regional imbalances in J&K: WG III**

Jammu, May 1: Working Group No. III on Economic Development of Jammu and Kashmir, headed by C Rangarajan, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former RBI Governor, has called for equal distribution of resources to end discrimination among three regions of the State Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, endorsed the recommendation of PMs Task Force for handing over Dulhasti and Bursar power projects to J&K and recommended four laning national highway from Jalandhar to Srinagar. The Group has also recommended taking up several development schemes and projects in J&K involving a total cost of Rs 7947 crore to boost tourism, industrial and agriculture sectors and strengthen health, education and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Balanced regional development is important for every State especially for J&K. Every region must feel included in the process of growth. Jammu, Kashmir Valley

and Ladakh have different comparative advantages and development strategy for each region has to be consistent with these differences..

Indian Express, 2 May 2007

### **UK bomb plotters trained in PoK, funded J-K militants**

London, May 1 : The five Muslim extremists sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring bomb attacks in the UK had attended training camps near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and raised funds for militancy in the valley under the influence of radical clerics. According to prosecution, 25 year old Omar Khyam, leader of the fertilizer bomb cell, along with London bomber Mohammed Sidique Khan, attended a terror training camp in Muzaffarabad two years before the July 7, 2005, attacks on London's transport system, which killed 56 people, including the four terrorists. Similarly, 24 year old Algeria born Anthony Garcia who moved to the UK at the age of five, was drawn to the cause after watching a video about alleged atrocities in Kashmir at his college Islamic society. He was a key fundraiser for Kashmiri militants..

Daily Excelsior, 3 May 2007

### **Govt considering self rule for J&K, says Mufti**

New Delhi, May 2: The Centre is considering the idea of giving self rule to Jammu and Kashmir under which the State will be kept out of the purview of Article 356 that provides for dismissal of a State Government, PDP patron Mufti Mohammed Sayeed claimed today. The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said the Pakistan Government was also contemplating a similar step for the parts of the State under its occupation. There is back channel talks with the UPA Government going on and they are considering the idea of self rule. Various formulae are being discussed, he told CNN IBN, reports PTI. The framework of self rule would be discussed with all the parties and people from J&K, a release issued by the channel quoted him as saying.

The Tribune, 3 May 2007

### **Relief on a par with Kashmir migrants**

Udhampur, May 2: Enraged over indifferent attitude of the authorities, displaced families of Reasi, Mahore and Bakuri tehsils today threatened to intensify their agitation suspended last week following an assurance from deputy commissioner Reasi, Sanjeev Verma to solve their problems in seven days. As many as 938 displaced families, living in miserable conditions, have been demanding relief on a par with Kashmir migrants and implementation of the directions of the court wherein the government was directed to treat them on a par with other displaced communities of the state. Migrants from militancy-hit areas of Rajauri and Reasi districts, these families have been putting up at Talwara, Granmorh, Salal, Pagha, Pouni and Ransoo camps which lack basic amenities like drinking water and sanitation..

Daily Excelsior, 3 May 2007

### **WG favours return of Kashmiri youths from Pak**

Jammu, May 2: Working Group on Confidence Building Measures Across Segments of Society in the State, headed by Mohammad Hamid Ansari, has favoured return of Kashmiri youth from areas controlled by Pakistan but suggested that offer to permit

return should be within a time frame to be determined politically to maximise its impact. Among a series of recommendations, the Working Group favoured one time relief of Rs 5 lakh to next of kin of militancy victims instead of Rs one lakh relief and a job under SRO 43, talks with representatives of Kashmiri migrants and identification of such categories willing to return to Valley in next three years, an unconditional dialogue with militant groups, strengthening of State Human Rights Commission SHRC at par with NHRC, a definite policy for rehabilitation of surrendered ultras, withdrawal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act and Disturbed Areas Act in J&K and general amnesty for prisoners involved in minor offences..

The Tribune, 3 May 2007

**Opinion: Why invite an unwilling Hurriyat? (G Parthasarathy)**

DR. Manmohan Singh is already talking publicly about the future leadership of the country. His contributions to foreign policy and national security will be largely judged on two major initiatives that he has undertaken the nuclear deal with the US and his efforts for peace and reconciliation on the vexed issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Reconciling the assurances he gave in Parliament on the autonomy of our strategic nuclear programme and on the guarantees of fuel supplies with the provisions of the US Hyde Act is becoming a vexed and seemingly intractable issue. But Dr Manmohan Singh does appear to have set the stage for a framework under which bilateral negotiations can be held with Pakistan on the question of J&K..

Indian Express, 3 May 2007

**Latest in Valley: 'Freelance' killings**

The JK Police said that "supari" killings have become part of Kashmir militancy, claiming it has busted a new race of freelance militants, conducting target killings, grenade attacks and other violent acts simultaneously for two organisations. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Range, Shiv Murari Sahai said at a press conference today that the Srinagar Police has arrested 13 such freelance militants including a woman and solved 10 cases of point-blank assassination bids, target killings and also high profile grenade attacks at the house of Hurriyat moderate leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and his conglomerate headquarters earlier this year.

Daily Excelsior, 4 May 2007

**Governor opposes troop reduction, making LoC irrelevant**

Governor Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha today said steps like troop reduction and making LoC irrelevant cannot be taken up at present as cross border terror infrastructure has not been dismantled but favoured discussions on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's four-point formula. He, however, ruled out demilitarization of Jammu and Kashmir saying being a border State it was not practicable even if complete peace was restored and asked the Army not to lower its guard "as the threat of violence continues".

Daily Excelsior, 4 May 2007

**Editorial: Made in PoK lets be on our toes**

The worst fears have come true in the case of the July 7, 2005 bomb attacks on London's transport system in which 52 persons were killed. It has been conclusively established

that plotters and executors of the gory drama had their tuition next door to us. Their deadly skills were honed in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, as the occupied territory is locally known. Under the influence of radical clerics they also raised funds for terrorists on this side of the Line of Control LoC. The profiles of five extremists who have been sentenced for life for complicity in this gruesome act are quite revealing. They tell a tale of how innocent young persons have their minds poisoned in the name of religion. They feel moved to the extent that they choose to harm their own country the United Kingdom in this instance. One may recall that four terrorists were eliminated while indulging in one of the most heinous crimes in London. It was mentioned at that time they and their accomplices had close linkages with well-established terror network in our part of the globe..

Kashmir Times, 5 May 2007

**HR defenders: Right to self determination, AFSPA repeal linked (J Rashid and A Rashid)**

Srinagar, May 4: Right to self determination and revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act AFSPA are the two common points which binds the work of human rights activists working in states like Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur. This came to the forefront on the first day of the two days Human Rights Defenders Conference being organized by the Public Commission on Human Rights. The participants coming from Manipur said that the problem in that state is due to the reason that the right to self determination has not been given to the people there..

Greater Kashmir, 5 May 2007

**Opinion: Withdrawing troops (Balraj Puri)**

Despite prolonged parleys between the PDP leaders with the senior national Congress leaders, ministers of the Union government and their interlocutors, the terms on which final agreement was arrived at were so simple that it raised more questions than its answered. Were the differences between the major coalition partners in the government of Jammu and Kashmir on fundamental political principles and ideological or elementary and tactical? Are they due to lack of coalition culture in the state and due to the clash of personal egos and ambitions? What are the lessons that can be drawn from the crisis and the way it was resolved? Finally has the crisis been resolved permanently and the coalition will run smoothly henceforth? Most pertinent question is why there is no permanent mechanism to evolve consensus between coalition partners on all issues before making the differences public and debating them through the media or taking them to Delhi's arbitration..

Tribune India, 5 May 2007

**JMM opposes demand for talks with separatists**

The Jammu Mukti Morcha (JMM) has opposed the demand that the Prime Minister should hold separate roundtable conference with separatists and militant groups. He said the JMM was totally opposed to the implementation of "self-rule" or "autonomy" in J&K.

Kashmir Times, 5 May 2007

**Geelani's strike call: Hurriyat (G) expects massive response**

The Hurriyat Conference (G) is expecting an overwhelming response to its strike call for May 5 (Saturday). Geelani led faction of Hurriyat has given the strike call to protest against, the slapping of Public Safety Act (PSA) against four of its top leaders, reign of terror let loose by Papa Kishtwari, desecration of mosque at Hari Parbat and against the ill treatment being meted out to prisoners in jails and interrogation centres. On April 28, acting Hurriyat (G) chairman Ghulam Nabi Sumji, Muslim League chairman Masarat Alam, Democratic Political Movement president Firdous Ahmad Shah and Mohammad Shafi Lone were booked under PSA for their alleged anti-national activities during the April 22 rally of Geelani martyrs graveyard Iddgah.

Greater Kashmir, 5 May 2007

### **Separate Roundtable for separatists?**

Srinagar, May 4: Hectic activities are underway in New Delhi for holding a separate roundtable for pro-freedom Kashmiri leaders, a local news agency KNS said on Friday. It said the continued absence of pro-freedom leaders in the roundtables has had made think-tanks in New Delhi seriously ponder over the issue, and the idea of holding a separate roundtable by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has already been discussed..

Daily Excelsior, 6 May 2007

### **Critics of troop reduction speak out of turn: Mufti**

Srinagar, May 5: Peoples Democratic Party patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today asserted that those who oppose and ridicule the demand of troop reduction in Jammu and Kashmir are in fact negating the aspiration of the masses. He said that his party would take its agenda of the empowerment of the people of the State to its logical conclusion. Addressing a public meeting at Srigufwara in District Anantnag today, the Mufti said the criticism of adversaries only strengthened his resolve to revive the civil society in the State and give legitimate and people friendly politics full space. Mufti Sayeed claimed that the demand of the PDP to withdraw troops from internal security duties in the State was an essential component of the peace process and a necessary first step towards the ultimate resolution of the problem. The PDP patron said Army and paramilitary forces had played their part in restoration of peace..

Greater Kashmir, 6 May 2007

### **SC nod for Mughal Road soon**

Srinagar, May 5: In a major development, the Empower Committee of the Supreme Court has agreed in principle to permit the construction of Mughal Road that will link the Kashmir Valley with Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu province. The final decision, according to Advocate General of the state Altaf Hussain Naik who pleaded the case before the court will be out in a fortnight. Senior officials of the state including Commissioner Secretary Forest, Commissioner Secretary Law, Chief Conservator Forest, and Chief Engineer Mughal Road were present in person before the court when the case came up for hearing on Tuesday. The clearance from the Apex Courts Empower Committee is a prerequisite for construction of any road in an area which falls under the wildlife. The total length of the Mughal Road is 84 km, of which 40 km, fall from the Valley side. Twenty six km of the 40 km fall under the wildlife sanctuary..

The Tribune, 6 May 2007

**J&K separatists must attend roundtable meetings: Qayyum (Interview by Prashant Sood)**

Mohammad Abdul Qayyum SENDING a strong signal to separatists in Jammu and Kashmir to attend the roundtable meetings convened by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir's former President and Prime Minister Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan had a series of high level interactions in the Capital during his visit to attend the intra Kashmir talks. Mr Qayyum, the supremo of the ruling Muslim Conference in PoK, met the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition L.K. Advani and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. Involved in the tribal incursions in Kashmir in 1947, Mr Qayyum has reoriented his policies according to the times..

Daily Excelsior, 6 May 2007

**Fake killing case: time given to Army authorities**

Srinagar, May 5: A court here today gave 15 days time to Army to decide whether it would initiate Court Martial proceedings against its four personnel allegedly involved in the killing of a civilian in a fake encounter in the State last year. Chief Judicial Magistrate Sopore Abdul Rashid Malik fixed May 21 for further hearing in the matter. He asked Army authorities to inform the court on that date whether it would try the accused in General Court Martial or allow the civil trial to take place. On April 18, four Army men, including Col Vikram Singh, and five policemen were chargesheeted in the case pertaining to the disappearance of street vendor Ghulam Nabi Wani. Wani was picked up from Lal Chowk area here by security forces in March last year and later allegedly killed in a fake encounter in Bandipora district..

Daily Excelsior, 7 May 2007

**Hakeem spews fire on Mufti at Budgam rally**

Srinagar, May 6: PDF leader and Cabinet Minister in the coalition Government, Hakeem Mohammad Yasin, today held the advocates of demilitarisation responsible not only for granting special powers to security forces but also for massacre of 350 people in Mirwaiz Farooq's funeral procession in May 1990. He said that their attempts to pull down Ghulam Nabi Azad's Government had failed and would meet the same fate in future. Addressing a massive public meeting at Shogapora in Budgam district, Minister for Transport Hakeem Yasin alleged that the Kashmiri politicians, now giving the slogan of goli ke badle boli, had been advocates of goli ke badle goli a bullet for a bullet in 1990. Without mentioning the name of his former Chief Minister and then Union Home Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Hakeem said that today's advocates of demilitarisation, who were themselves in power in 1990, had promulgated draconian laws including J&K Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Jammu and Kashmir..

Greater Kashmir, 7 May 2007

**Editorial: Repeating blunders**

Who takes political decisions in the state of Jammu and Kashmir the state government, New Delhi, bureaucrats or sleuths is a jigsaw puzzle. It is a baffling question that has been denying an answer for now about past two decades. It is a history that whenever prospectus for return of peace or respite in otherwise tense situation brightened the

government in its nervousness took one or other indiscreet political decision. Repeating mistakes has in fact become a cardinal creed of the authorities in the state and it has been because of its quick fix policies that situation instead of improving always took ugly turns. Many a blood baths and mayhems if seen in right perspective are attributes of the indiscreet policies of the state government. Now when there is whiff of change in the political environs of the sub continent and optimism about resolution of Kashmir problem being round the corner exudes from both New Delhi and Islamabad..

Daily Excelsior, 7 May 2007

**Editorial: First things first**

Will it make any difference whether we call it a special economic zone SEZ or a special industrial zone SIZ. The Prime Ministers Working Group on economic development has recommended that J&K should make an attempt to have a SIZ. This is despite the fact that it feels that the SEZ is the best option. But in its view the viability of the SEZ is doubtful given the State's landlocked geography, infrastructure deficit and distance from ports. Its exercise has apparently been aimed at luring investors to the State. One cant disagree with its conclusion What J&K needs is a big banner initiative one that will raise profile of the State among potential investors. One will appreciate such sentiments..

Kashmir Times, 7 May 2007

**Editorial: Subverting peace process**

The arrest of Yasin Malik on Saturday while he was on his way to Daksum, Kokernag and then later his release in Srinagar was obviously an outright attempt to prevent the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front JKLF leader from going ahead with his SafareAzadi aimed at garnering physical support of the people for the inclusion of Kashmiris in the resolution of Kashmir dispute. Yasin was forced to suspend the safar that was scheduled to start from Daksum, Kokernag and in the next few months would have reached every village and town of the Valley, where he was to address the public to seek support for the Kashmiris involvement in the resolution of the dispute. The manner in which the authorities decided to crackdown on the JKLF by arresting its chief and his associates and seizing the vehicle, that the leader was going to use for his journey to cover far flung villages of the Valley spread over several months, is an ugly manifestation of the repressive tactics used by the state to scuttle any kind of dissent..

Daily Excelsior, 8 May 2007

**Trust people for peace in J&K: Mufti**

Anantnag, May 7 : Peoples Democratic Party PDP has said the fast-changing ground situation in Jammu & Kashmir demands that the Government of India must take necessary reciprocal measures to make peace with the people of the State by trusting them and addressing their just and genuine political and economic concerns. With improvement in the situation, New Delhi will have to initiate a tangible confidence building process within the State that would make a difference to lives of the people especially in militancy-hit areas, PDP patron, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said at a public meeting at Kuthar, Shangus today..

Greater Kashmir, 8 May 2007

### **JKLF to restart Safar e Azadi from May 20**

Srinagar, May 7: The pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front JKLF would restart, from May 20, its Safar e Azadi Journey for Freedom campaign which was postponed after the detention of the party chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik on Saturday. And if restrictions are again imposed on us, I'll go on an indefinite hunger strike from May 26, Malik told reporters at a news conference here Monday. We will start the Safar e Azadi from Daksum in south Kashmir's Islamabad district from where I was arrested. Police had detained Malik and some of his associates a day before the campaign on the grounds that JKLF had not sought permission for it. But, Malik said, We don't have any problems in seeking the written permission..

Greater Kashmir, 8 May 2007

### **Darbar opens in Srinagar**

Srinagar, May 7: Amid tight security arrangements, the Civil Secretariat and related government offices reopened here today for the biannual Darbar Move, after functioning in Jammu for the past six months. The offices had closed in Jammu on April 7 and would now function here for the next six months. Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad took the guard of honour of a contingent of the state police and then addressed the employees before starting his daily work at the Civil Secretariat. The security forces had been put on alert across the Kashmir valley in view of the re-opening of Darbar Move offices here. Security had been upgraded to maximum levels at the Civil Secretariat, which is the nerve centre of all official activities and houses the offices of the Chief Minister, his Cabinet colleagues and other top bureaucrats..

Hindustan Times, 8 May 2007

### **Opinion: Don't be fence-sitters (AG Noorani)**

India today seems to be the victim of three traumas: Kashmir, the Aksai Chin and poverty. To try to solve the first two by vast military expenditure can only divert its funds and energies from the struggle against poverty.. Things have improved since, especially on Kashmir. The remarkable progress in the peace process is matched by significant signs of thaw. The Hizb chief, Syed Salahuddin's ceasefire offer last year was welcomed by unionists and separatists alike. On February 26 this year, he welcomed President Musharraf's four point formula as a first step. Two days earlier, the LeT chief, Hafiz Muhammed Saeed, talked to Lt Gen VG Patankar, who had served in Kashmir and expressed his readiness to visit India in order to hold talks. On March 27, for the first time in 17 years, Ram Navami was celebrated with eclat in the Valley, particularly in the historic temples, Badarkali in Handwara and Ram Chandra Mandir, Barbar Shah in Srinagar..

Greater Kashmir, 9 May 2007

### **Plebiscite only way to resolve Kashmir: APHC G**

Islamabad May 8: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference, PaK chapter Geelani faction has reiterated that plebiscite was the only respectable way to resolve Kashmir dispute amicably in line with the wishes and aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir. According to a press release, the reiteration was voiced in an extraordinary

meeting of the APHCs advisory council members here Tuesday. The meeting was presided over by Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, the Hurriyat convenor. Rehmani apprised the advisory council members of the political situation prevailing in Kashmir including detention of some Hurriyat leaders..

Kashmir Times, 9 May 2007

**Kashmiris still at receiving in other states**

Jammu, May 8: Despite Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azads repeated requests, Delhi Police and police in the rest of the country continue to suspect, harass, abuse and illegally detain Kashmiris especially Muslims from Jammu and Kashmir. Recent events have increased fear psychosis among Muslim youth in Jammu and Kashmir preventing them from traveling to New Delhi for higher studies, jobs and business. Some cases of maltreatment with Hindu students from the state, presently studying in Maharashtra have also been reported but the situation is appalling for Muslim youth. Those traveling from Jammu to Delhi and other parts of the country maintain that they are harassed and if they object to that, they are humiliated and threatened of dire consequences..

The Tribune, 9 May 2007

**Border residents want ceasefire to be permanent (Shariq Majeed)**

Mendhar Poonch, May 8: Almost four years after guns fell silent along the Line of Control due to ceasefire between India and Pakistan, people in the border township of Mendhar, who suffered most due to hostility between the two countries, are heaving a sigh of relief. Before 2003, residents of this township (just a few kms from Kotli district of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir PoK lived in constant fear of getting killed due to heavy shelling from across the border. Residents say a number of locals lost their lives due to shelling before the ceasefire and there was a huge loss to property as well. They say hundreds of animals also died due to shelling in Mendhar and its adjoining areas, including Balakote, Mankote Sagra and Gaulad. However, with guns falling silent along the LoC, fear of people has lessened though not vanished for the reason that they feel that guns will fall silent permanently only when the two countries become friends..

Kashmir Times, 9 May 2007

**Editorial: Hawks in high positions**

Of late, some of our top military men, especially when posted in the highly politicised state of Jammu and Kashmir, tend to forget the limits within which they are required to operate, both in their speech and action. They are trained and duty bound to defend the countrys honour, independence, and unity, as well to come to the aid of the civil authorities in meeting any internal challenge, natural or political, as per decisions of the legitimate politico-administrative authority of the land. It is the latter who should decide, who to fight, when to fight, and when to adopt some other means for acheiving the national goal. The noted authority on military matters, Karl von Clausewitz has said that if the tactics to be adopted on the ground is determined by the strategy preferred by the superior authorities, the latter in its turn has to be shaped by the policy the government seeks to pursue. And, obviously, the policy to be pursued for the protection and promotion of national interest is the domain of those legally and morally responsible for the same and also reflect the sovereign will of the people in these regards..

Daily Excelsior, 9 May 2007

**Opinion: Karakorum - the region of insurgencies (KN Pandita)**

We may be tempted to make a short but pointed comparative study of the rise and handling of armed Islamist insurgency in two contiguous regions of Karakorum, namely Kashmir and Uighur dominated Xinjiang, the Eastern province of China. The ground situation in the two regions shows some similarity between the two but in many ways they are dissimilar. Both have predominant Sunni population and both have been nursing independence from respective dominant powers viz. China and India. In both the regions Islamists trusted combat tactics as the means of achieving their objective. Both the regions obviously look to the Muslim world for its response and reaction. However, among the dissimilarities, we find that in Kashmir two sovereign states, India and Pakistan have been laying claim to Kashmir on geographical, historical, religious and political basis. In Kashmir the insurgents are mainly divided into two groups one opting for separation from India and accession to Pakistan and the other struggling for independence..

Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2007

**Kashmir can never become part of Pakistan: Farooq**

Srinagar, May 9: Former Chief Minister and National Conference patron Dr Farooq Abdullah today reminded the people of the Valley that come what may, Kashmir can never become a part of Pakistan and those who were thinking on such lines, were just trying to exploit the sentiments of the people. Addressing impressive public gatherings at Sogam and Vilgam in Kupwara district today, Dr Farooq said that it were only Kashmiris from both sides of the border who were falling prey to the bullets and not any Pakistani. People have to help in restoring peace and contribute for this noble cause, the former Chief Minister said. Admitting that gun has brought a total havoc in the State, the NC patron said that terrorism or violence was no solution to any problem. Only talks can help in finding permanent solutions, he made it clear and appealed the authorities to take a giant leap for the restoration of the peace..

Greater Kashmir, 10 May 2007

**Editorial: No peace without security**

Jammu & Kashmir Police in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi, recently organised a seminar in Srinagar on the subject of Consolidating Peace. The initiative for organising a conference about peace is very welcome especially when it involves a cross section of the civil society. The technical sessions of the seminar were very interactive and lively. Participants expressed their views openly without any reservations. There was a face to face interaction between the members of Kashmir's two communities. In spite of the fact that the seminar had more civilian speakers than from the security forces and police, the overall atmosphere of the dominant uniformed presence did not deter people from expressing conflicting views openly. The keynote and the valedictory address delivered by the Governors of Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh respectively seemed to be out of sync with the topic of the seminar..

Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2007

**Govt committee to review Spl Powers Act: Jaiswal**

New Delhi, May 9: Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal today said there have been demands from various sources about reduction of the level of security force deployment in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the overall improvement in the security environment. The approach of the Government is to ensure that the deployment of security forces is related to the scale of problems and requirements on the ground, he said in the Rajya Sabha today. A committee has been constituted under the Defence Secretary to examine the overall situation and security forces deployment, he added. The aforesaid committee would also conduct a parallel exercise to review the application of the Armed Forces Jammu and Kashmir Special Powers Act of 1990 to different areas of the State, Jaiswal said..

Greater Kashmir, 10 May 2007

**Text of Maliks letter to Vajpayee: Malik writes to Vajpayee**

DEAR ATALJI, In public life, from time to time, it becomes necessary to communicate one's perceptions, concerns and apprehensions to others in public life on the pressing issues of our time in an open and frank manner. It is in this long tradition of public communication between individuals and in a spirit of honesty and frankness, that I address your good self through this open letter. Of recent, I have observed with much distress that your good self along with your colleagues, through your public comments, might have started adopting a changed approach towards the ongoing peace process on Kashmir. In this regards, I refer here to the letters that you and Shri Advani have recently written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh raising public doubts and expressing disapproval..

The Tribune, 10 May 2007

**Protests rock Budhal over custodial death**

Rajouri, May 9: A day after a youth, accused of murder allegedly committed suicide by slitting his throat at Buddal police station, massive protests were witnessed in the area alleging that the youth was killed in police custody. The protesters held a massive demonstration at Buddal against the alleged custodial death. The protesters, raising anti administration slogans, charged the Buddal police of killing the youth in custody. They demanded stringent action against the guilty. Abdul Rasheed, a son of Abdul Rehman of Morah Daraj, along his two brothers Sakhi Mohd and Muneer Hussain were picked up by the police from their native village on Tuesday in connection with the killing of Kashmir Singh and Chain Singh, of the same village, who were beheaded by unidentified gunmen while cutting wood in Kala Gawa forests in the Daryal area of Daraj on April 21..

Daily Excelsior, 11 May 2007

**Training camps in PoK still operating: Militants**

Rangwar, Kupwara, May 10: Youths from Pakistan, Pakistan occupied Kashmir PoK and other countries are still being trained in a number of camps across the border, said two ultras, who were part of a group that infiltrated into this side recently. The militants Mohammad Yasin, a resident of Lahore and Akhtar al Salam, resident of Sialkote in Pakistan said a number of camps are still in operation across the Line of Control LoC

where youths are being given arms training. They said before pushing the militants into Jammu and Kashmir they were being trained how to detonate Improvised Explosive Device IED and target vital installations. Yasin said they were given three months training in the camps before they were directed to reach a launching pad near the LoC at Aithmuqam Post in PoK..

Kashmir Times, 11 May 2007

**Opinion: Cross fertilisation in Kashmir politics (MS Malik)**

It is re positioning time in Kashmir politics which is passing through an unfamiliar twilight zone. Debilitating effects of militancy on the State's political health are beginning to fade away but the contours of emerging scenario are yet too indistinct to allow a clear cut course correction by main players in the arena. That explains the crescendo of confusing voices reverberating across the Valley. Also, there is method in the madness. The old lessons are sought to be unlearned, inconvenient historical baggage jettisoned and traditional ideological trenches deserted. For the first time, the political turmoil has struck almost uniformly on both sides of the Line of Control, like the recent earthquake. Old fault lines are disappearing and new ones coming to the fore, rendering even the supposedly sure-footed competitors uncertain about themselves..

Greater Kashmir, 11 May 2007

**Opinion: Projecting Kashmiriyat is a mischief (DR. ABDUL AHAD)**

..How about Kashmiriyat? Historians are projecting Kashmir as Kashmiriyat which is a mischief on the part of, both, India and our intellectuals. They are projecting Kashmiriyat by distorting the history of Kashmir, which is nothing but a historic gesture. It is a sinister move to legitimize the position of disputed Kashmir as India's peripheral, subservient and sub-national constituency and equate it with Punjabiya, Bengaliya, Gujaratiya, Maharashtraiya etc. the undisputed sub identities of all pervasive Indian national identities. By proclaiming Kashmiris as integral part and by relentlessly striving to hold bogus elections from time to time to install local surrogate rulers and to operate through native institutions, India can neither supercede UN resolutions nor hoodwink the international opinion. These things are not being projected properly by the historians working in universities and by others..

Kashmir Times, 11 May 2007

**De mined fields in Akhnoor only a fraction cleared (Shuchismita)**

Jammu, May 10: Sweeping statements on the part of government agencies about border migrants to allow cultivation on their de mined fields for the next seasonal crop have created a deep sense of uncertainty and confusion among the villagers of Gigriyal South end Zero Point, Chapriyal, Millen De Khoi etc. Confusion reigns supreme among the villagers because better part of their mined agricultural land has not yet been de mined and perhaps would never be de-mined, as per army authorities, given their strategic compulsions. But the statements, which can better be described as across the board proclamations, being circulated by the government agencies are drawing an impression as if the entire mined agricultural stretch, which even as per rough estimate is around 28,000 kanals, is being cleared..

The Tribune, 11 May 2007

**People of Doda villages live in fear**

Udhampur, May 10: Inhabitants of far flung villages of Doda are fearful as pickets of security forces have reportedly been removed from some hamlets where minorities dominate. Locals alleged that the pickets were removed as part of the demilitarisation in militancy hit areas following PDPs demand. Leader of Doda Swami Raj said the demilitarisation process was silently started in Doda district as authorities started withdrawing the troops from the isolated and far flung areas. He gave the example of Mashala village in the Bhagwa area and Bueali belt comprising over 12 hamlets from where security pickets had been withdrawn. Echoing similar views Gian Singh of Dhar Dashnana village said a picket of security forces was established at their village after the Kulhand massacre, but now they had been removed. We will meet the DC of Doda before taking any step, he said..

Greater Kashmir, 12 May 2007

**RESETTLEMENT TO DOMINATE AZADS ALL PARTY MEET**

Srinagar, May 11: Amidst bitter reactions from his key ally Peoples Democratic Party and main opposition National Conference, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad is set to chair an all party meet here on Saturday. Clearing doubts about agenda of the meeting first ever since coalition government was formed in 2002 Azad met various representative delegations of refugees in Jammu on Friday. Both NC and PDP have made their displeasure public by alluding that they would resist any move to resettle refugees in Kashmir. A substantive chunk of non Muslim population had migrated from Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, 1965 and 1971. National Conference and other regional parties doubt the state subject status of these refugees while the issue remains emotive with Jammus political forces.

The Tribune, 12 May 2007

**NCP announces boycott**

Jammu, May 11: The Nationalist Congress Party NCP has announced the boycott of the tomorrow's crucial all party meeting that has been convened at Srinagar by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad to discuss the contentious issues of increasing the number of the Assembly seats by 25 per cent and granting citizenship rights to the West Pakistani refugees. The meeting has been convened with a view to evolve a consensus on these issues and also delimitation of the Assembly constituencies. The working committee of the NCP that met here today under the chairmanship of Randhir Singh, state chief of the party, described the increase of the Assembly seats as an unconstitutional exercise with bias against the Jammu and Ladakh regions.

Kashmir Times, 12 May 2007

**Editorial: An inconsistent opposition**

The well known French litterateur Anatole France once commented, Inconsistencies are hobgoblins of petty minds, meaning thereby that petty people alone are scared of being inconsistent. By this standard the Indian political scene, especially the opposition benches, are literally bristling with great minds, who do not bat a lid before saying or doing some thing completely opposed to what they had said or done, a little earlier.

Apparently, their views and policies change according to their being in power or out of it. Or else, how could Vajpayee and Advani collect the courage to deride the present India-Pak peace process as an illegitimate child? It rightly provoked a man like Yasin Malik, who had been recently prevented from taking out his planned Safar e Azadi, to prick the bubble of their misconstrued audacity by pointing out through an open letter that it was none but Vajpayee, when in power, who had sired this very baby.

Daily Excelsior, 12 May 2007

**Opinion: Sardar Qayyum and relevance of Jihad (ML Kotru)**

I recall having met Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, a former President and Prime Minister of Pakistani Kashmir some two decades ago in Islamabad. He was staying at the city's Kashmir House and my meeting with him was literally squeezed into two that had been previously arranged. Obviously it couldn't have been a long meeting but memory tells me it was a short and sweet one made sweeter probably when he came to know that I was Srinagar born with the caveat that I had spent most of my life in Delhi. He didn't seem the firebrand one had imagined he may be. After all he was one of the first former British Indian Army soldiers to have organised an attack on Poonch soon after partition. He was very courteous and spoke hopefully of the day when the former princely State might be a single unit once again. Coincidentally, the man whose appointment with Qayyum Khan was next, turned up on time.

The Tribune, 13 May 2007

**Hurriyat factions decry all party meeting on refugees, delimitation**

Srinagar, May 12: The moderate and hardline factions of the Hurriyat Conference criticised the conduct of the all-party meeting convened by the Chief Minister here today to discuss the rights to refugees and the delimitation of Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir. Though the mainstream parties, including the ruling coalition partner the PDP and the opposition National Conference attended the meeting held at the highly guarded Nehru Guest House, these did not conform to the Congress party's stand on the issues. A spokesman of the moderate Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq has said the mainstream political parties were making a futile attempt to sabotage the dialogue process to resolve Kashmir through round table or all party conferences. This was also an attempt to divert the attention of people from the real issues of Kashmir, he added saying the APHC believed in a meaningful dialogue with the involvement of the representatives of Kashmir.

Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2007

**Peace moves after-effects felt in Valley**

Srinagar, May 12: With peace moves between India and Pakistan gaining momentum, its after-effects are quite rightly felt in Kashmir. Militant violence has drastically come down and political activity, in otherwise hostile region, has accelerated unexpectedly. Both mainstream as also separatist political parties are out among common people to prove their point. In the past fortnight over two dozen public rallies were held across the Valley by the constituents of the ruling coalition Congress, PDP and PDF and secessionist leaders separately. The common refrain from all the groups was the peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue. Capital Srinagar was host to two big rallies. The opposition National

Conference held a massive rally on April 28 indicating that the party has all the power to resurge as the force it was known ever. The NC cadres had been dormant in the years of trouble as they faced the most of the onslaught in the wake of militancy..

Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2007

**Govt to constitute committee on relocation, rotation, delimitation**

..There was nevertheless, some degree of consensus over Mr Azad's suggestions of fresh delimitation and relocation of existing Assembly segments besides rotation of the Reserved segments. Chief Minister pleaded that the forlorn segments could not wait for the year 2026. Some of the speakers came to his support and pointed out that Parliament had not frozen relocation and rotation of Reserved constituencies but J&K Assembly had done it as an innovation without proper application of mind. Most of the speakers, irrespective of party affiliation, were also nearly unanimous over granting of Permanent Resident status to the Pakistani refugees of 1947. It was pointed out that refugees of 1965 and 1971 had already been granted this status. BJP leaders stressed on the need to also include refugees of PoK.

Greater Kashmir., 13 May 2007

**Opinion: Identifying a Kashmiri (M Ashraf)**

During last two decades Kashmir has been so much battered physically as well as in the media that a Kashmiri is probably the most well known person through out the world, even though sometimes for wrong reasons. However, there is confusion about who is a Kashmiri and what actually constitutes present Kashmir? Some people doubt even Kashmiris being a nation! It was the partition of Indian sub-continent and the subsequent conflict between the two emergent countries of Pakistan and India for owning this unfortunate piece of land that put Kashmir on the front page of almost every news paper and news channel through out the world. Even though in ancient chronicles the land of Kashmir is extensively mentioned by Greek, Chinese, and Arab historians as a beautiful valley deep in the Himalayan Mountains, yet not much has been mentioned about the Kashmiris themselves..

The Tribune, 14 May 2007

**All-party meeting for consensus on delimitation, refugees rights**

A meeting of all political parties convened by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad held here yesterday to discuss the issues related to refugees and delimitation of assembly seats in the state resolved to continue the process of consultation on various issues. The meeting was held at the highly guarded Nehru Guest House overlooking the Dal Lake that continued for several hours. It decided to constitute a committee to suggest measures for addressing the civic, social and development related problems of the refugees. The committee has to give its interim recommendation within 10 days from the date it is constituted.

Daily Excelsior, 14 May 2007

**Cross-LoC trade has huge potential: Ramesh**

May 13 Cross-LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir has a vast potential, but it cannot be undertaken unilaterally, Union Minister of State for Commerce Jairam Ramesh said

today. Cross-LoC trade has a vast potential but it cannot be undertaken unilaterally. In this endeavour, the attitude of Pakistan is very important he told reporters here. He also expressed unhappiness over Pakistan not giving Most Favoured Nation MFN status to India. Earlier, addressing a function organised by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Ramesh said the Centre would be setting up the offices of National Spices Board and Director-General Foreign Trade in Srinagar to enhance the export potential of the State.

Greater Kashmir, 14 May 2007

**We don't need arms: Mufti**

Peoples Democratic Party PDP patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said Sunday the most essential need of Jammu and Kashmir now was the security through development and not arms. Addressing a public meeting at Hazratbal, he said the positive change in the state's ground situation demanded that the security of the people must now move to the centre-stage with more emphasis on economic development besides security of income, job and that of individuals and communities.

The Hindu, 14 May 2007

**Opinion: Signs of another kind of line of control (Praveen Swami)**

Has Pakistan set new limits that the Lashkar-e-Taiba should not cross in its jihad against India? A CALENDAR adorned with an image of Ganapati and a poster of a zebra punctuated the bleak, white walls of the one-room Lashkar-e-Taiba safehouse in suburban Mumbai. But after five nights at sea, on a fishing boat headed south across the Indian Ocean from Karachi, the spartan room looked to Lashkar operatives Jamil Ahmad Awan and Abdul Majid Araiyan like a luxury hotel. Just after midnight on March 3, we now know, the Lashkar had at least eight trained Pakistani nationals hidden away in the safehouse: a group not dissimilar to the perpetrators of the maximum terror bombings of July 2006..

Daily Excelsior, 15 May 2007

**Self rule document to be made public soon: Mufti**

Srinagar, May 14: PDP patron and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said his party will soon make public its self rule document that lays out a broad road map for an amicable and ultimate settlement of the Kashmir issue. Self rule, when implemented fully, would not only address the basic grievances and aspirations of the people of the State, but also outline incentives and instruments for resolving both internal and external dimensions of the issue, Sayeed told a public meeting at Bandipore, 55 km from here. The self rule proposal, besides taking care of political and constitutional concerns of the people, also accords highest priority to economic rejuvenation of Jammu and Kashmir in proportion to the legendary place it has in the South Asian region as a medieval business hub, he said..

Kashmir Times, 15 May 2007

**Editorial: Futile and Insideous**

The so called all party meeting which started in Srinagar on May 12 with a bang ended in a whimper, chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's boastful claim of its success

notwithstanding. Instead of producing any result the misconceived exercise only triggered avoidable controversies, accentuating communal regional divide. Not only the holding of such a meeting was ill conceived but even the issues under discussion were in no way relevant to the present situation. With even the coalition partners sharply holding divergent views on the subjects and the opposition bitterly and genuinely opposed to raising such frivolous issues at this juncture the meeting was doomed to fail from the very beginning. At a time when the State was facing far more serious problems raising some non-issues on which there are unbridgeable differences even among the mainstream political parties made the meeting only a wasteful exercise..

Greater Kashmir, 15 May 2007

**Opinion: Some Futuristic Perspectives-IV (Dr. Riyaz Punjabi)**

The media reports on the recommendations of the committees appointed by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, indicate that a joint consultative mechanism is envisaged in some sectors which would strengthen the economic relations bringing in a close proximity between the two Kashmirs. The vision of this mechanism, which is considered as an important component to strengthen the Confidence Building Measures CBMs on Kashmir, is the result of back channel diplomatic efforts and Track 2 initiatives which have been going on at different levels in India and Pakistan for a long time. These initiatives have been strongly backed by the US and European political and diplomatic establishments. This accounts for its survival in spite of the changes at the political levels in India and Pakistan during the last about a decade now. In this vision, the development of tourism in both the Kashmirs and a hassle free access to tourists to these places, occupies an important place..

Daily Excelsior, 15 May 2007

**Hakeem, Tarigami rule out PR status to Pak refugees**

Srinagar, May 14: Confidantes of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and allies of his coalition Government, CPI M State Secretary Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami and PDF chief Hakeem Mohammad Yasin have taken exception to a section of the media being unfair to them and labelling them as pro Jammu and anti Kashmiri on account of their respective speeches made in the all party meeting here on Saturday last. Claiming that Mr Azads initiative had been a success, Tarigami and Yasin asserted that the Pakistani refugees settled in the State needed to be treated on humanitarian grounds but they sought to make it clear that there was no scope of granting them the status of Permanent Residents in the Indian as well as the J&K Constitution.

Greater Kashmir, 16 May 2007

**HOLD RTC WITH UJC, HURRIYAT: Omar tells New Delhi**

Budgam, May 15: Fearing that Kashmiri militant leadership could veto the current peace process if not involved in talks, National Conference NC President Omar Abdullah has proposed a separate roundtable conference involving both separatist as well as militant leadership. While addressing a Public meeting in this central district on Tuesday Omar stressed New Delhi to initiate unconditional dialogue with the Muzaffarabad based militant conglomerate United Jihad Council. Later while fielding reporters queries about the issue the NC President said, NC supports any move that would involve separatists as

well as the Kashmiri militant leadership. It could be a separate roundtable for them. Urging New Delhi to hold unconditional dialogue with the militant leadership, Omar hoped that the unconditional dialogue offer to UJC would bring a positive outcome, as they are ready for the talks.

Kashmir Times, 16 May 2007

**Editorial: Shouting about infiltration**

What is the status of infiltrations in Jammu and Kashmir and how much are the levels of violence? It is difficult to assess. The conflicting versions even within the government obfuscate the truth badly. It seems to be like the typical case of violence levels lying in the eyes of the beholder, While different political groups and leaders come out with their own contradictory statements, in an obvious bid to suit their own politics, the official versions also follow suit. It is not just a simple case of contradiction between one official agency and the other. In fact, even within the army, different officers have been talking in different tones while talking about the level of violence and the number of infiltrations. The home ministry itself was found talking from two different corners of the mouth last week with minister of state for home S.P. Jaiswal maintaining that there was a relative decline in infiltrations and the next day his MoS Defence MM Pallam Raju contradicting him and expressing concern over increasing level of infiltration from the borders into Jammu and Kashmir..

Daily Excelsior, 16 May 2007

**Opinion: Northern Areas: Searching for an Identity (D Suba Chandran)**

During the first week of May, a conference was held in Skardu; speakers according to a news report, demanded restoring the historical identity of Gilgit and Baltistan, holding an election for a Constituent Assembly for the Northern Areas and ending the influence and rule of bureaucracy, dictated from Islamabad. Earlier, during the same week, in Muzaffarabad, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, the Secretary General of the Peoples Party Azad Jammu and Kashmir PPAJK demanded fundamental and constitutional rights for the people of Gilgit and Baltistan; he also insisted that the members of this region should be given representation in the AJK legislative assembly. These two demands on the status of Northern Areas, from two different regions of Pakistan occupied Kashmir have larger implications. There are not only political questions involved, but larger humanitarian issues to be addressed..

Greater Kashmir, 16 May 2007

**Lawyers stage protest**

Srinagar. May 15: Kashmiri lawyers boycotted courts and staged demonstrations on Tuesday against unabated human rights violations by various security agencies and called for mass protests on Friday. The lawyers took out a procession from the High Court complex, shouting anti government, anti-troops and pro-freedom slogans. They marched through the historic Lal Chowk and demanded shifting of troops from civilian areas and revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act APSPA. Stop state terrorism, and Stop bloodshed, they shouted. Describing the beating of a 9th grader girl by CRPF troops at Tral yesterday as sheer terrorism, they said, We as part of civilized society cant tolerate it.

Greater Kashmir, 16 May 2007

**Opinion: The Frozen Turbulence of Kashmir (SA Safvi)**

Lot of debate is doing the rounds in the political circles of Kashmir regarding Self Rule. PDP patron, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, went all the way to New York to explain his party's concept of Self Rule. Back in the valley, National Conference blamed New Delhi for not being clear on the issue of Self Rule. The party president while addressing a press conference on November 2 last year described PDP's Self Rule proposal as Delhi's response to NC's Autonomy. The Autonomy resolution created ripples in New Delhi. They thought that today Farooq demands Autonomy; tomorrow he might ask for Azadi. So, within a month PDP was created to counter NC, Omer asserted.

Daily Excelsior, 17 May 2007

**Delay in troops cut will complicate matters: Mufti**

Srinagar, May 16: Postponing troops cut in the State and withdrawal of the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act would further complicate a solution to the Kashmir issue, former Chief Minister and ruling alliance partner PDP leader Mufti Mohd Sayeed said here today. Reduction of troops and revocation of AFSPA are the key components of Kashmir resolution process and any effort to procrastinate the move would only complicate the matters further, Sayeed, patron of ruling People Democratic Party said addressing a public rally at Qazigund in south Kashmir. I am looking forward to the fulfilment of the commitments made at the highest level in the Government of India in this regard, he said..

Greater Kashmir, 17 May 2007

**OIC reiterates support to Kashmir cause**

Islamabad, May 16: The Organisation of Islamic Conferences Contact Group on Kashmir, in an extraordinary meeting here Wednesday voiced its full support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for achieving their right to self determination. The meeting held on the sidelines of the 34th session of the OCI Foreign Ministers was chaired by the Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and attended by foreign ministers of Pakistan, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the Hurriyat Conference M leaders. The Kashmir Contact Group meeting in its deliberations gave the impression of serious efforts that the OIC has either undertaken or going to take within this year.

Daily Excelsior, 17 May 2007

**Hakeem stresses on Hizb chief's involvement with peace process**

Budgam, May 16: PDF chief Hakeem Mohammad Yasin and CPI M State Secretary, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami today said that politicians of vested interest had destroyed Jammu and Kashmir with their divisive politics. They said that a new era was about to dawn in the troubled State and some failed politicians were desperately attempting to put everything in their own basket. Addressing a public meeting here this afternoon, Minister for Transport and Chairman of PDF, Hakeem Mohammad Yasin, said that some politicians, obsessed with vested interest in turmoil, had ruined this State with their divisive politics. These people have been saying one thing when they are in power and quite another when out of power. They will have to shut their shop now, Hakeem said.

Daily Excelsior, 17 May 2007

**Editorial: Hope for the best, plan for the worst**

..It has been the favourite pastime of Pakistani ruling politicians of all hues to launch acrid verbal attacks on India and its approach towards Jammu and Kashmir to divert attention from their failures on home front. The General has made a refreshing departure. In this context one can refer to his inaugural address to the two day meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference OIC in Islamabad. Instead of playing to the gallery he has spoken with restraint. He has talked of India and Pakistan working to achieve ultimate peace in the region. He has described the relations between the two neighbours as having never been as good as they are today. This is an extremely positive sign.

Kashmir Times, 17 May 2007

**Crackdown on separatists, mainstream politicians look the other way**

Srinagar, May 16: Almost all the mainstream political parties try to take lead over each other while demanding dialogue with separatists, but when it comes to the curbing of political activities of separatists by the state government the mainstream leaders observe silence. After the Eidgah rally of Hurriyat Conference G, the state government made every effort to stop the leaders of the faction from meeting the press or holding public meetings. Subsequently, the Hurriyat G leaders could not address a press conference at a local hotel here, which was raided and the leaders arrested. This was followed by a cordon and search operation at Hyderpora when Hurriyat G chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani was scheduled to address a press conference at his residence there. Not only his residence but other houses in the area were also searched and the leader was not allowed to meet the media persons.

Indian Express, 18 May 2007

**Demilitarisation would help Kashmiris: Pak**

Islamabad, May 17: Pressing for demilitarization in Kashmir, Pakistan has said reduction of troops in the valley would improve the atmosphere and conditions for Kashmiris and hoped the ongoing dialogue with India would lead to resolution of the vexed issue. We have already put in place a number of Jammu and Kashmir related confidence building measures ranging from continuation of ceasefire across LoC, initiation of bus and truck services, opening of crossing points along the LoC, and greater interaction among Kashmiri leadership on both sides, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said. Addressing the OIC Contact Group meeting on Kashmir on Wednesday Conference of Foreign Ministers, he referred to the four point proposal of President Pervez Musharraf on Kashmir and said it aimed at bringing lasting peace in South Asia.

Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2007

**We wont allow special status to weaken: Rather**

Srinagar, May 17: Opposition National Conference today asserted it will fight every conspiracy aimed at weakening the special status enjoyed by Jammu and Kashmir under the Constitution. NC will fight tooth and nail every conspiracy aimed at weakening the special position enjoyed by the State under the Constitution, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather told a public meeting at Shankerpora in Budgam

district. Jammu and Kashmir enjoys special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. It has its own constitution and flag. Without identifying the conspirators, Rather said his party would scuttle the back door attempts by conspirators to harm the status enjoyed by the people. He said the best solution to the Kashmir issue is restoration of greater autonomy to the State which is within the Constitution.

The Tribune, 18 May 2007

### **Protests against Dera continue**

Srinagar, May 17: Expressing their anger against Dera Sacha Sauda, protest demonstrations by various Sikh organisations were held at different places across the Kashmir valley today, while an effigy of Dera Sacha Saudas chief Gurmit Ram Rahim was burnt at the Lal Chowk here today. This was an unfortunate development and the Dera chief did not have any supporters outside his area, a Sikh youth said. Protest demonstrations were held by members of Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Sikh Federation from Amirakadal Gurdwara to the Court Road demanding strict action against the Dera chief.

Kashmir Times, 18 May 2007

### **Opinion: Will international media ever notice Kashmir (Athar Zia)**

In between lamenting the ones already dead, those dying everyday, making a living and foremost trying to survive the violent conflict physically, Kashmiris have been left with little else to do; especially with the cause that is fueling the 16 year old armed resistance and the ensuing human tragedy. In the saga of making conflicts so protracted by the powers that be as has been witnessed elsewhere and in Kashmir as to lose the core essence of their origin, assessing old wounds is not a priority. Mind you, what caused them in the first place is relative in the history of Kashmir, which if I am correct to recall has not seen an indigenous rule since 16th century.

Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2007

### **Editorial: A new threat**

A report about an attempt by the militants to blow up under-construction railway track with an improvised explosive device IED in Anantnag district early this week should put us on notice. Fortunately, the IED was neutralised before it could cause any damage. We need to remember that we may not be lucky every time. Right now what is involved is the safety of workers and engineers engaged in the task of building the railway line from Udhampur to Srinagar. Gradually, we will have to address the more crucial issue of passengers security. We can ill afford to take any chances in this matter. We cant forget that the militants have made their ugly presence felt more than once on the track in this region.

The Tribune, 19 May 2007

### **Geelani under house arrest**

Srinagar, May 18: Hardliner APHC chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani was kept under house arrest at his residence here today to prevent him from addressing a Friday congregation at a mosque near a tourist reception centre in Civil Lines. Talking to journalists at his Hyderpora residence later in the afternoon, Geelani decried the

restrictions being imposed on his activities by the state government. He said this move was aimed at stopping him from putting forth his point of view. This, he said, was an undemocratic step taken by the government..

Greater Kashmir, 19 May 2007

**Army under Sadhbavana shock**

Srinagar, May 18: Army is in the dock as a girl from a faroff north Kashmir village has approached the High Court with shocking details of how her mother was allegedly sexually exploited by a Colonel after employing her under the Operation Sadhbavana Goodwill project run by the Army. The court has issued notices to the Union of India and top brass of the Army and asked the state police to ensure safety of the family. The single bench of Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, in the case Shahida Parveen versus Union of India, on Thursday issued notices to New Delhi, Chief of Army Staff, GOC 15 Corps, 20 Punjab Infantry, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Gurazi, SDM Gurez, and in charge police chowki. The petitioner through her counsels Mian Abdul Qayoom, ZA Qureshi and SH Thakur had pleaded before the court that one Colonel Jamwal, the Commanding Officer of the Punjab infantry subjected her family to untold misery after employing her mother under the Operation Sadhbavana.

Greater Kashmir, 19 May 2007

**Editorial: Jairams K point**

Union Commerce Minister Jairam Rameshs assessment of J&Ks economic potential is a working refutation of how the state government over these past years had been handling the economic state of affairs. Mr. Ramesh while speaking to an award function in Srinagar last week exploded a political myth around which a full fledged school of thought has evolved that perceives cure of Kashmirs all ills in tourism revival. Unlike the routine pronouncements from occasional VIPs from New Delhi, Mr. Ramesh did not glorify Kashmirs tourism sector out of way. Instead, speaking with abundant confidence that his expertise in economic issues has provided, the Minister disclosed that the tourism contributes a mere 10 percent to J&K's State Domestic Product SDP.

Kashmir Times, 19 May 2007

**Opinion: Peace-process a Mock (SB Qadri)**

The Kashmiri intelligentsia are morally responsible for the present chaotic state of affairs. Whether they belong to pro-freedom camp or otherwise they dont have any national character. Whenever they face problem they expect others to come for rescue. Kashmiris need to learn lesson from early civilizations like SPARTA. I as a student have failed to understand why we always bank on others. Doesnt it show our intellectual , moral, psychological and political bankruptcy, that we feel proud in borrowing concepts from outsiders. Isnt it intellectual barrenness of Kashmiri think tanks, that we even barrow terminologies and ideologies from foreigners. I believe in principles that we are slaves by soul and spirit. We dont deserve to be free, because we want freedoms on a served plate. We change our ideologies with the passing winds. We change our KIBLA for petty interests.

Daily Excelsior, 20 May 2007

**High level team set up in custodial killing**

Jammu, May 19: IGP Crime and Railways Dilbagh Singh today set up a high level team, assisted by a legal advisor, to expedite investigations in custodial death of Aiyaz Ahmed Wani alias Chunnu in custody of Ramban police in November 1995 even as both DySP and Inspector wanted in the case remained untraced and were also absent from the duties. On the other Chunnus father, who is a petitioner in the case, has sought courts intervention to hand over probe in the case to a senior IPS officer for fair and impartial investigations..

Kashmir Times, 20 May 2007

**Elections have no meaning till Kashmir is resolved (Athar Parvaiz)**

Srinagar, May 19: Observing that politicians in New Delhi continues to be guided by the bureaueracy, the chairman of Mirwaiz faction of Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today said that New Delhi wants to hold dialogue with the Kashmiris on its own terms and conditions which, he said, was not possible at this level when the dialogue should have made much more progress. Hardening his stand regarding the assembly elections in the state, he said that these elections are not going to have any significant impact unless the Kashmir issue is resolved. He observed that India on the one hand focuses on elections in Kashmir while on the other hand it is talking about the peace process with Pakistan.

Greater Kashmir, 20 May 2007

**?Delhi discussing Musharraf's 4-point K plan?**

Srinagar, May 19: Prem Shankar Jha noted Journalist and a significant track two player on Kashmir has alluded that New Delhi was drawing the contours of its own Kashmir formula to respond Pakistani President General Parvez Musharrafs four point Kashmir proposal. Speaking at a Hurriyat sponsored seminar here on Saturday, Jha disclosed that Indias track two representative on Kashmir S K Lambha had been discussing for long the four point formula with his Pakistani counterpart, Tariq Aziz. The proposal, according to Jha, envisages a separate geographical entity carved out of the entire J&K, holding elections in this entity through a mutually agreed upon coordination council, devolving powers to it and leaving the management of defense and foreign affairs to the mutual onus of India and Pakistan.

Daily Excelsior, 20 May 2007

**Expedite Kashmir solution: PDP**

Srinagar, May 19: People's Democratic Party PDP today said resolution of the Kashmir issue is not only vital for peace in the State but is equally important for security and stability of the region. Delay or complacency in the resolution of the issue will only reinforce the writ of the destructive elements who are eagerly waiting for an opportunity to blow up the fragile situation, senior party leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig said at a day long party convention at Handwara, 80 km from here. Baig said history has offered a momentous opportunity to India and Pakistan to make enduring peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir Times, 20 May 2007

**Editorial: MISGUIDED AGENDA OF REHBARS**

The series of protests in the last one month by youth professionally qualified in different fields seeking government jobs at least informs us of one thing, besides reflecting the increasing levels of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, that there are simply no other avenues than looking for government jobs in this state. The attitude of the authorities as usual is to look the other way, or at the most make hollow promises, or instead quote lack of vacancies as a reason. Does the top hierarchy of our bureaucrats and politicians absolutely lack any imagination or vision?

The Tribune, 20 May 2007

**Poor mortgaging their children (Dinesh Manhotra)**

Talwara Reasi, May 19: Contrary to the governments claims, poverty-stricken displaced persons living in the Talwara migrant camp, are still sending their minor children in towns and cities to work as domestic helpers by taking advance money from their employers. This human rights abuse of children has been going unabated as these families have no other option to earn two time meals for them. Some call it mortgaging of children, while others call it surrogating, but one thing is clear that due to their economic conditions a large number of families have sent their children to far off places by taking advances from their employers thereby reducing these minor children to the status of bonded labourers.

Daily Excelsior, 21 May 2007

**Self rule will divide J&K: Omar**

Behrote Rajouri, May 20: Lambasting the parties playing regional cards and raising hollow slogans like self rule to propagate their political interests, National Conference president Omar Abdullah today said that restoration of autonomy in the State is only viable solution for resolving Kashmir issue. Addressing a public rally here, Mr. Abdullah said his party will not allow division of the State as being propagated by some vested interests. Those advocating self rule formula are actually talking of dividing Jammu and Kashmir State on regional basis, he alleged. He said autonomy document to our mind is acceptable to all as it also ensures internal autonomy for equitable development of all three regions including neglected far flung areas of the State. This is evident as the document has been passed and adopted by the State Assembly, he said adding that borrowed formulas being projected by some parties have failed to generate much interest among the general masses..

Greater Kashmir, 21 May 2007

**FINALLY JKLF SAFAR-E-AZADI TAKES OFF**

Kokernag, May 20: Ruling out trifurcation of the state on the religious lines, chairman of pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front JKLF, Muhammad Yasin Malik, who led Safar e Azadi Journey for Freedom march from the front at Matigavaran in south Kashmir on Sunday said, We will not allow partition of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh on communal lines. Addressing a gathering here, Malik said, Freedom movement was started for liberating Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Pakistan administered Kashmir and Gilgit and not for its division. He assured the people that the evil designs of those people who are for

the division of the state will be foiled. We will sit together and decide our future and destiny..

Kashmir Times, 21 May 2007

**Editorial: Terror under official patronage**

There can be no sincere effort to end human rights violation without curbing the extra powers to the surrendered ultras in Jammu and Kashmir. Recent incidents are an indication that the terror perpetrated by the surrendered ultras, commonly called Ikhwanis, on the ordinary civilians, especially in rural areas, is one of the areas that deserves priority. If the government really means business on the issue of demilitarising civilian space in Jammu and Kashmir, then it has to look into the probability of not just troop reduction but also two more important things. One is the revocation of draconian laws like Armed Forces Special Powers Act that give the security forces unbridled freedom to even commit murders under the garb of counter insurgency operations. And, second is the unlimited powers and official patronage given to the surrendered ultras to create a reign of terror in their respective areas.

Daily Excelsior, 21 May 2007

**Number of tourists down by 1 lakh**

Srinagar, May 20: States tourism sector is worried by a sharp fall in the number of people visiting the State and officials blame the trend on attacks by militants on tourists last year. Official figures show that as against 172,000 visitors both domestic and foreign by April end in 2006, just 72,000 tourists have visited Kashmir in the same period this year. At a time when Kashmirs hills and vales should be the ideal destination for people seeking to escape the sweltering heat in the plains, the famed Boulevard on the bank of the Dal Lake in Srinagar wears a deserted look with locals around.

Daily Excelsior, 21 May 2007

**Editorial: Peace and progress**

Minister for Education and Information Technology Peerzada Mohammad Saeed is right when he says that peace is pre-requisite to a development initiative. He has made the observation in the context of promoting Business Process Outsourcing BPO in the Kashmir Valley especially. However, there are many who may find his remark rather intriguing. He is a key member of the Government that has been claiming constant improvement in the law and order situation. Surely the overall security picture is much better today than it was in the early 1990s. Yet, the entrepreneurs from outside the State are deterred by an impression that the State remains vulnerable to militant violence. Unless this feeling disappears altogether we have to keep our fingers crossed about the economic growth..

The Nation, 21 May 2007

**Editorial: Timeframe for Kashmir**

..It is extremely unfortunate that the global community should be characterising India as the greatest democracy in the world, turning a blind eye to the brutal reality that it is holding Kashmiris down with the help of over 700,000 security men in the Valley against their will. While, on the one hand, it had taken the matter to the United Nations and

accepted the UNSC resolutions to the effect that its ultimate settlement would conform to the wishes of Kashmiris, it never desists from affirming that the disputed state is its atoot ang, on the other, which is a contradiction in terms. A speaker at the conference termed this New Delhis insistence as the biggest hindrance to reaching a settlement..

Greater Kashmir, 22 May 2007

**Hurriyat roadmap out: Kashmir to have its own Prez, PM**

Srinagar, May 21: The former Hurriyat Conference M chairman Professor Abdul Gani Bhat on Monday made public roadmap of the amalgam aimed at resolving the Kashmir issue. Professor Bhat while addressing people at Idgah here gave credit to Pakistan President Parvez Musharaff for finding a way to settle the vexed K-issue once for all, but on the other hand lashed out at pro Indian politicians for trying to create confusion by claiming that they are presenting the road map. Today I want to snatch the vital weapon from the hands of those people, who by resorting to mere rhetoric are misleading the masses, Professor Bhat announced.

Daily Excelsior, 22 May 2007

**Multi Agency Centre set up to co-ordinate Intelligence inputs**

Jammu, May 21: A Multi Agency Centre MAC has been set up in New Delhi to co ordinate with different Intelligence and security agencies and formulate a comprehensive report on the basis of data provided by them on infiltration of militants and other subversive activities. Authoritative sources told the Excelsior that this was done keeping in view the divergent reports given by Intelligence agencies like Intelligence Bureau IB.. According to authenticated reports, 80 militants managed to infiltrate into Indian territory from across the Line of Control into the State in April this year after snow started melting by first week of the month..

Kashmir Times, 22 May 2007

**Ikhwani terror reports put to rest govt claims (Peerzada Shabir)**

Srinagar, May 21: The claims of disbanding and reining in of Special Operation Group SOG and pro government gunmen, popularly known as Ikhwanis are proving to be a hoax. In recent days, reports of extortion and atrocities pouring in from different corners of valley, especially from the remote areas of valley, has been on the rise. On Sunday in central district of Budgam, three personnel of SOG and a troop informer allegedly barged into a residential house and demanded ransom from the inmates. They also beat up the inmates to pulp. Though the police arrested the trio, but reports maintained that these pro-government gunmen are patronized by the troops and SOG..

Daily Excelsior, 22 May 2007

**Editorial: Act now**

Why are tourists keeping away from the Kashmir Valley this season? This is the question worrying everyone engaged in the hospitality trade. A colleague currently on a tour on the other side of the Pir Panjal is bewildered by the absence of usually enthusiastic sightseers response during this time of the year. He has hardly noticed any visitor from other states in the south of the Valley en route to such picturesque resorts as Pahalgam and Kokernag. There is some improvement in the visibility of domestic guests on the

Boulevard Road along the captivating Dal Lake. Foreign tourist traffic too has marginally gone up with those from Israel happily dropping their aversion to the region..

The Tribune, 22 May 2007

**Mirwaiz urges PM for national consensus on Kashmir (Ehsan Fazli)**

Srinagar, May 21: Describing Kashmir as a complicated issue, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq here today urged the Prime Minister to create consensus in the country on resolving the issue to help the ongoing dialogue process. He stressed the need for political ways and means towards finding a permanent and amicable solution of the issue adding the Hurriyat had always been ready for bold initiatives. I want to convey to the Prime Minister time has come when the Government of India has to create consensus in the country on Kashmir, the Mirwaiz said in his address at a public meeting at Eidgah here today..

Indian Express, 22 May 2007

**Mirwaiz lashes out at hawks (Riyaz Wani)**

..Though Hurriyat again plied its sole representative claim with practiced ?lan, the comparison with the ongoing mainstream political rallies was inescapable. Touted as a grand show of Hurriyat strength with all the constituent parties pooling in their supporters for the rally, there was little to set apart the gathering from the parallel mainstream meetings. Supporters came from as far off places as Kupwara and remote areas of Budgam and Anantnag, but the strength of the rally didnt surpass a mainstream public meeting. Perhaps conscious of this reality, senior Hurriyat leader Bilal Gani Lone referred to the challenge from People?s Democratic Party and National Conference..

Daily Excelsior, 23 May 2007

**Sajjad suggests J&Ks trifurcation (Ahmed Ali Fayyaz)**

Srinagar, May 22: Chairman of the separatist Peoples Conference PC, Sajjad Gani Lone, today argued that Jammu and Ladakh regions should be left alone if people of the two non-Muslim-dominated regions were not feeling themselves comfortable with the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley. Like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, PC chief has also dismissed the mainstream National Conference NC and Peoples Democratic Party PDP)as the two mainstream political parties concerned about nothing but the privileges flowing to them from New Delhi. While addressing a public meeting, that was badly disrupted by intermittent rains, Sajjad Lone swore that he had no plans to contest Assembly elections unless and until these were aimed at resolving the Kashmir crisis..

Gretaeer Kashmir, 23 May 2007

**Safar-e-Azadi reaches Nagam**

Srinagar, May 22: Carrying forward his Safar e Azadi journey of freedom, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Muhammad Yasin Malik and his supporters reached Nagam in south Kashmir Tuesday. In a statement, a JKLF spokesman said the procession led by Malik passed through Badar, Nagam, Souf Shawli, Hangal Gund. The JKLF chief while addressing the gatherings in different villages reiterated that no solution without the inclusion of Kashmiris would be acceptable..

Kashmir Times, 23 May 2007

**Sikhs stage protest in Valley**

Srinagar, May 22: Like other parts of country, Sikhs today staged protest demonstrations across Valley against the chief of Dera Sacha Sauda sect. According to reports, the Sikh community members in hundreds took to roads at Kupwara, Baramulla and Srinagar today. The Sikh community members assembled at Dewan Bagh ashram at Baramulla and staged a massive protest demonstration. The protestors burnt the effigies of chief of Dera Sacha Sauda sect. They were raising anti Dera Sacha Sauda sect slogans and demanding stern action against him for hurting the sentiments of Sikh community members by his blasphemous act. They were also demand his arrest for hurting their religious sentiments..

Kashmir Times, 23 May 2007

**Editorial: Voices for peace and dialogue**

It is time for New Delhi and its puppet regime in Jammu and Kashmir to understand that the growing voices for peaceful dialogue involving the people of the State call for positive response and not the provocative repressive measures to stifle such voices of reason. The manner in which the State authorities have been resorting to such repressive measures, obstructing peaceful rallies and protests, arresting leaders and political activists and silencing the voice of dissent by using force and draconian laws leaves no one in doubt that the old days of repression are back in the troubled state. Such strong arm methods have proved counter-productive in the past, contributing to popular alienation, and their consequences can be no different now. Tragically the ruling elite in New Delhi and its pliant regime in the State have not learnt any appropriate lessons from history.

Indian Express, 23 May 2007

**Ultras use threat to create fear psychosis in J&K (AM Sofi)**

Srinagar, May 21: Unnerved by the response of the people to the public meetings being organized by political parties in the nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir, ultras have resorted to old methods to use threats to create a fear psychosis among the people. Though elections in the state are scheduled next year, militants see holding of large number of public meetings by PDP, Congress and National Conference as preparation for polls, observers say. .

Daily Excelsior, 23 May 2007

**Editorial: Black May: Lessons it holds for us**

Another May 21 has come and gone. The date evokes sentimental memories about two charismatic leaders Mirwaiz Moulvi Farooq and Abdul Ghani Lone. On this day the militants in the violence-surcharged environment of the Valley first gunned down the Mirwaiz in 1990 and then Lone in 2002. The latter was assassinated after he had paid tributes to the Mirwaiz at a public meeting at Srinagars Idgah ground on the occasion of his 12th death anniversary. He was killed because he was working for peace an apt observation made by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the subcontinent. Both of them had a large number of friends in this region too. Somehow their successors genuine as well as self professed and political associates choose to commemorate their memory on this unfortunate date in Srinagar alone.

Daily Excelsior, 24 May 2007

**Geelani Hurriyat rejects Sajjad suggestion**

Srinagar, May 23: So-called hardliner faction of the separatist Hurriyat Conference, headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, has dismissed the Peoples Conference PC leader Sajjad Gani Lones conditional suggestion of trifurcating Jammu and Kashmir on religious and regional lines. It has also rejected Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's formula as a photocopy of NCs autonomy. In reaction to the two prominent separatist leaders, namely Chairman of the so called moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Chairman of the PCs Sajjad faction Sajjad Lone, Hurriyat G today held an emergency meeting of its top decision making body Majlis e Shoora, which was chaired by Geelani..

The Hindu, 24 May 2007

**Pakistan asserts new claims on Kashmirs Northern Areas (Praveen Swami)**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Ambassador to Brussels has laid the foundations for a diplomatic furore by asserting new claims on the Northern Areas, a sprawling 72,495-square kilometre tract of Jammu and Kashmir occupied in 1947. In a letter written to Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne, the author of a European Parliament report on Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador M. Saeed Khalid has claimed that the "whole of [the] Northern Areas was not a part of Jammu and Kashmir state in 1947." Ambassador Khalid insists that the United Nations resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir "do not, in any manner, apply to any part of the Northern Areas." As such, he argues, "integration of the Northern Areas with Pakistan is also not prohibited" a suggestion likely to irk not just India, but many politicians in the sensitive frontier region.

Kashmir Times, 24 May 2007

**Opinion: Peace into pieces (Syed Ali Safvi)**

"Indian state is projecting a rosy picture of situation in Kashmir but the facts are contrary." "The process of law that should normally follow any act of violence is entirely absent in the state." "It is army rule in Kashmir and Army is carrying its tasks without accountability. I don't know how India calls itself democracy." - These are not the excerpts from the speech of a Kashmiri separatist leader, but of some non-Kashmiri Indian human rights activists. In a bid to ascertain the factual situation in Kashmir, a team of eleven human rights activists from different parts of India visited Kashmir. After enquiring about a dozen incidents of police and army high-handedness, the team gave its report, which refutes the claims of both the state government and Government of India that the strife-torn, conflict-ridden Valley is limping towards normalcy.

Kashmir Times, 24 May 2007

**NC will play pivotal role in resolving Kashmir: Omar**

Manjakot Rajouri, May 23: President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Omar Abdullah today said that it is for the first time in the history of the NC that the party enjoys good working relations with both India and Pakistan. Addressing a gathering at Manjakot in district Rajouri today Omar said "my meetings with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Parvez. Musharraf were very cordial and

productive", adding "I am confident that both the countries are aiming to find an amicable solution to the long pending issue of Kashmir and in this NC will play a key role"

Indian Express, 24 May 2007

**Some CBM this: Govt denies visas, kills international meet on Kashmir**

New Delhi MAY 23: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh may have highlighted the progress in Indo-Pak relations as one of his governments key achievements when he released the UPAs three year report yesterday but, it seems, some things dont change. The Government has shot down a Pugwash conference on Kashmir in Mumbai saying it wont grant visas to participants from Pakistan. The conference has, therefore, been cancelled and postponed indefinitely. This despite the fact that among the Indians scheduled to attend were Chief Information Commissioner and veteran Kashmir bureaucrat Wajahat Habibullah, National Minorities Commission chief Hamid Ansari and top Kashmir leaders, including Omar Abdullah from National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti from PDP, Hurriyat leaders Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Sajjad Lone, Bilal Lone and representatives of Congress and BJP from J&K.

Daily Excelsior, 25 May 2007

**J&K Govt tells Centre it cant cut security forces**

New Delhi, May 24: The Congress led Jammu and Kashmir Government has informed the Centre that it was unable to carry out any reduction of security forces in the State amid growing threats from the militants to disrupt political activities besides targeting vital installations. This was conveyed at a meeting chaired by Defence Secretary Shekhar Dutt in which officials from Army, para military forces and Central intelligence agencies were also present. The Defence Secretary is chairing an expert panel constituted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on March 30 to carry out an in depth assessment of the situation and also determine whether there is any need to relocate and reconfigure security forces.

Indian Express, 25 May 2007

**EU commends India, criticises Pakistan**

London, May 25: The European Parliament on Thursday adopted a report on Kashmir, criticising Pakistan for its lack of progress on democracy and human rights and commending India as the largest secular democracy. On Pakistan, the report placed by Baroness Emma Nicholson voiced concerns over fundamental freedoms and in particular the rights of women, children and minorities. It is also concerned at report of torture, mistreatment, discrimination and corruption in Pakistani-occupied Kashmir. The report noted, India is the worlds largest secular democracy and has devolved democratic structures at all levels while Pakistan still lacks full implementation of democracy in Pak Occupied Kashmir, and has yet to take steps towards democracy in Gilgit and Baltistan.

Kashmir Times, 25 May 2007

**Opinion: Idiom of a people in vaccum (Shyam Kaul)**

Where there is will, there is a way; so we were taught in our schools, generation after generation, and so we believed. But as a displaced Kashmiri Pandit, living now in foisted exile, one finds it difficult to accept that it is the will that will necessarily lead to the way.

It could be other way round too. One would rather say, show me the way, as all displaced Kashmiri Pandits KPs have been saying all these past seventeen years, and then see how my will to go back to my home gets stirred up by leaps and bounds..

Indian Express, 25 May 2007

**Dividing J&K on communal lines impossible: Hurriyat**

Srinagar, May 24: Separatists as well as mainstream political parties on Thursday outrightly rejected the idea of division of Jammu and Kashmir on communal lines put forth by Peoples Conference led by Sajad Gani Lone. Chairman of the hardline faction of the Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani, known for his hawkish approach, turned down the suggestion saying floating new proposals was creating confusion among people. The stand of pro Indian parties and other pro freedom parties is almost same and their roadmaps were just creating confusion in the minds of the people rather than making any headway for resolution of Kashmir dispute, he said. Geelani said that coming out with new roadmaps and formula on Kashmir issue amounted to surrendering before Indian government.

Kashmir Times, 25 May 2007

**Opinion: A simplistic approach to deal with a complex problem (Rekha Chowdhary)**

With so many political actors, parties and organisations of every variety separatist and mainstream, in fray, one always knew that the political space of Valley was becoming highly competitive. But the intensity of this competition was never as clear as it is now. The claims of representation are as many as are the blames for the unfortunate situation of Kashmiris. Everyone seems to be blaming everyone else. Thus it is not only the political parties which seem to be facing the heat of competition; the separatist leaders and organisations seem to be more affected by the kind of competition that exists. They have to compete for pre-eminence and supremacy within the separatist space and at the same time, they have also to fight off the influence, of whatever nature, of the mainstream parties..

Greater Kashmir, 26 May 2007

**Geelani terms Singhs statement misleading**

Srinagar, May 25: Commenting on Prime minister Manmohan Singhs recent statement that there was no military solution to the Kashmir issue, the Hurriyat Conference G chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Friday termed it an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of world. When Dr Manmohan Singh was giving this statement, the Indian troops were busy killing Kashmiris in fake encounters, Geelani said while addressing a Friday congregation at RTC Majid here. He said that India was not ready on any option other than military solution to Kashmir issue. It only wants to silence the Kashmiris? voice by dent of gun, he said. Geelani alleged that there was no let up in custodial killings and India was using rape as a war weapon against the Kashmiri women..

Daily Excelsior, 26 May 2007

**Euro Parliament blasts Pak for HR violations in Gilgit, Baltistan**

New Delhi, May 25: The European Parliament has come down heavily on Pakistans

repeated failure to protect human rights in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit and Baltistan and asked Islamabad to close down militant camps operating from that country. It asked militants to declare a ceasefire followed by demobilisation and reintegration process and recognised that without an end to terrorism, there can be no real progress towards a political solution to Kashmir issue or in improving the economic condition of the people in J&K. Adopting with overwhelming majority a report on Kashmir of Baroness Emma Nicholson at Strasbourg last evening, European Parliament asked the militants to declare a cease-fire and said Governments of Pakistan and India should facilitate such a truce.

Kashmir Times, 26 May 2007

**Opinion: Emma Nicholson's Kashmir report and 'Pakistan's image' (Dr. Shabir Choudhary)**

A prominent Azad Kashmiri leader, known for his pro Pakistan policies, has declared that we Kashmiris must oppose Baroness Emma Nicholson's Kashmir report in order to save Pakistan's image. Previously we were told that we had to oppose it because it was against the interests of the Kashmiri people, perhaps a goal post has been shifted to maintain the momentum of the anti report lobby. When we talk of Pakistan's image a number of images come to mind, and most, if not all, are created by Pakistanis themselves; and some of them are not very pleasant for those who love Pakistan and want to see the country to prosper and advance in the comity of nations..

Greater Kashmir, 26 May 2007

**Opinion: Congress Malice (Zainagiree)**

Nothing shows its vicious mentality and sinister designs more vividly than holding a so called all parties meet by Congress at Srinagar early this month. That the main agenda of the meet, attended by Indian mainstream political groups and chaired by chief minister, was to consider grant of state subject status to west Pakistan refugees sharnarthees who were allowed to settle in parts of Jammu by design, amply demonstrates that Delhi and its mannequins in the state are emboldened to say and do what they so far preferred to skirt around fearing severe backlash from Muslim Kashmir. Unmasked this time they are upbeat they revel in confidence. The gloves are really off. and it looks, as though from now on, it is going to be a straight punch to the face..

Kashmir Times, 26 May 2007

**Opinion: Geelani cannot be ignored (SMA Qadri)**

When the demand of all the paratists or pro freedom parties are exactly the same or very similar and they unanimously want resolution of Kashmir tangle as per the aspirations of the people, then why government of India is soft towards some parties and hard with same other parties of the same nature. Why one conglomerate of Hurriyat is labelled hard liner and other conglomerate as moderate when both the wings have emerged from one source. True one party of conglomerate chose composite dialogue or the negotiations with the corridors of the power as the best way while as other party or the conglomerate deems U.N. Resolutions as the best criteria for settlement of core issue of Kashmir tangle.

Gretae Kashmir, 27 May 2007

### **AZAD RULES OUT TROOP WITHDRAWAL, MID TERM POLL**

Srinagar, May 26: Ruling out withdrawal of troops from the state, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday said the violence level has increased during the past few months necessitating the presence of troops. In January, March and April, the level of violence has gone up. During this time 370 militancy-related incidents occurred in which 110 civilians and 146 militants were killed. So in such a situation, demilitarization is not possible, Azad told reporters at a news conference here. He said in 2000 when Delhi reciprocated to the Hizbul Mujahideens ceasefire and entered into talks with the outfit much to the dislike of then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, things changed here drastically. The Hizb withdrew the ceasefire, he said, but the Centre continued with it. And then there was attack on Assembly and Parliament..

Kashmir Times, 27 May 2007

### **Omar urges easier movement across LoC**

Surankote, May 26: Introduce smart cards for increasing movement of people across the line of control LOC and abandon the practice of complicating official procedures for those seeking to meet their relatives living on either side of line of control LOC. This was stated by President of National Conference NC Omar Abdullah while addressing a rally at Surankote. Omar said that those desirous of travelling through these links to meet their relatives are facing immense problems and added that the process of completing the formalities for getting travel documents should be simplified so that maximum number of people could avail the facility..

The Hindu, 27 May 2007

### **Plan to restore glory of Jhelum (Shijaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: To restore the pristine glory of the Jhelum river, Union Water Resources Minister Saifuddin Soz and Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday vowed to implement the ambitious project for which Rs. 18 crore has already been released. After a marathon meeting with senior officials of the State, both Prof. Soz and Mr. Azad said the idea was not just to restore a river alone but a hallmark of a civilization called Kashmir. Prof. Soz said Rs. 18 crore had already been released for the Jhelums restoration and beautification. The detailed project report submitted by the State Government has put the expenditure for complete restoration at Rs. 58 crore. We are going through the same and it will be taken into consideration on merits, he added.

Kashmir Times, 27 May 2007

### **Editorial: It Would Be Worthwhile To Turn Victims Into Actors**

Rallies organized by separatist leaders are no longer simply a metaphor of disenchantment of the people with the mainstream. After years of lull marked by divisions and factionalism, within the separatists fold, the recent series of rallies have once again brought the separatists leaders to centre stage. And that alone may not be the significance of these recent rallies. The swelling crowds and enthusiasm is a telling comment on not just the sentiment of alienation. But, more importantly, the massive response indicates how voices of disenchantment can be channelised into creating agencies of activism.

Kashmir Times, 28 May 2007

**Peace activists favour complete demilitarization reject Musharraf's joint Management plan (Shabir Dar)**

Srinagar, May 27: While terming full demilitarisation of Kashmir as a first step towards easing humanitarian catastrophe in Kashmir, prominent Kashmiri civil society actors today expressed apprehensions that the proposals put forth by President Musharraf were vague and that the joint management idea could result in loss of Kashmir's own economic resources. These views were expressed at a round table discussion on President Musharrafs Four Point Proposal: Social and Economic Dimensions held under the auspices of the newly established Kashmir Centre for Social and Development Studies KCSDS a research and advocacy group for Kashmirs social and development issues.

Greater Kashmir, 28 May 2007

**Editorial: Not by word alone**

In the ongoing intra coalition debate on troops withdrawal it is not clear as to what the Union Government wants its allies in Kashmir to say and what is the ultimate purpose of the debate other than the plausible reason of keeping people engaged mentally. Obviously it doesnt matter to Delhi as to who among the two groups engaged in the debate is going to lose credibility among the people. But one thing is clear that the two main coalition partners are trying to address their respective constituencies in the two divisions of the state. Keeping the people of the state divided has been a favourite past time of Congress party..

Daily Excelsior, 28 May 2007

**Anti militancy force of 200 put in place in city**

Jammu, May 27: With Intelligence inputs indicating terror attacks on some Indian cities including Jammu by Lashkar e Toiba LeT and Jaish e Mohammed JeM, police in Jammu City have put a strong 200 work force of police personnel in place fully equipped in all respects including latest communication gadgets aimed at bringing all of them into action at one stroke. The latest anti terror measures by police come close on the heels of installation of Close Circuit Television Sets CCTVs and equipping vehicles of DySPs and SHOs with latest technology AVLADs in entire City.

Daily Excelsior, 28 May 2007

**Editorial: Missing links**

Time and again we have in these columns called for having a dispassionate look on the missing persons scenario in the Kashmir region. The issue needs to be put in correct perspective. Presently it has been blown out of proportions. On the one hand, there are serious allegations of custodial disappearances. There are, on the other, rather moving tales of aggrieved family members awaiting the return of their young members. All hearts will go for them. It is said that they have either been liquidated in crossfire between the security forces and militants or killed in fake encounters. In the situation that we have been condemned to witness in our vicinity for nearly 20 years now nothing can be ruled out. There has been a vicious tussle of the gun. It has resulted in a debris that has buried under it even genuine human emotions. Truth too has become a serious casualty. Let's begin from the very beginning which in this instance means the late 1980s..

Greater Kashmir, 29 May 2007

**Fatwa is out: Army Cant Build Mosques, Shrines in Kashmir**

Srinagar, May 28: Army has stirred up a major religious controversy by undertaking renovation and reconstruction of many shrines across the Valley, with Kashmirs Grand Mufti issuing a Fatwa Monday declaring that no donation can be accepted from a non Muslim for the religious affairs, and urging people to pay Army back the money spent on the constructions. The Shariat law does not allow that any person or persons other than Muslims can do such an act, said Mufti Azam Grand Mufti Muhammad Bashir ud Din in a statement here. Therefore, I in my capacity as Mufti Azam Jammu and Kashmir state declare that this shall be treated as a verdict within the purview of Islamic Shariat: that no persons, organisations other than Muslims can construct, reconstruct, renovate any mosque or shrine..

Daily Excelsior, 29 May 2007

**Omar opposes division of J&K**

Poonch, May 28: National Conference president Omar Abdullah today said the people of border districts of Poonch and Rajouri are living a miserable life as coalition Government has failed to provide them even the basic facilities like water, power and road connectivity. Addressing a public meeting on last leg of his 10 day tour at Dhar Gloon in Mendhar, he said pathetic condition of people in far off areas indicates that the Government has completely relinquished its responsibility towards vital sectors of governance like health, education, water, road connectivity and power. Miserable condition of people in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri was a litmus test for failure of the Government in reaching out to people living in far flung areas, Mr Abdullah said..

Kashmir Times, 29 May 2007

**Opinion: Skeptics on joint control (AH Talib)**

What is it that makes Kashmiri civil society feel aghast over the idea of joint control or management of J&K which President Musharraf has floated? In sharp contrast to the hullabaloo and excitement at political levels, mainly in Islamabad and Srinagar, over the utility of President Musharrafs so called Four Point Formula in resolving the Kashmir, Kashmiri intellectuals appear rather skeptical. On Sunday when a cross-section of prominent Kashmiri writers, historians, academics, journalists and social activists debated the social and economic dimensions of the Four Point Formula on Kashmir in Srinagar, one was left with a feeling that no matter the bargaining chips, a majority of Kashmiris continue to crave for nothing short of their right to self determination.

Greater Kashmir, 29 May 2007

**PaK forms working group to monitor Mangla project**

Muzaffarabad, May 28: A working group, comprising representatives of Pakistan administered Kashmir government, federal ministry for Kashmir Affairs, federal ministry for water and power and the Water and Power Development Authority of Pakistan Wapda, will monitor the implementation of Mangla Dam extension project and the compensation package for the affectees. The working group, which would present its report to higher authorities on weekly basis, was constituted at a high level meeting held

in the town of Mangla on Monday, according to an official handout. The meeting was attended by PaK President Raja Zulfikar Khan, Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, federal minister for Kashmir affairs Tahir Iqbal, federal minister for water and power Liaquat Ali Jatoi, chief engineering adviser to the ministry Riaz Ahmed Khan..

Daily Excelsior, 30 May 2007

### **Separatists join lawyers to protest HR violations**

Srinagar, May 29: Rival factions of Hurriyat Conference and Democratic Freedom Party of Shabir Ahmad Shah today joined the Kashmir High Court Bar Association sponsored demonstration here to protest the alleged Human Rights Violations in the State. Lawyers boycotted courts and assembled at Lal Chowk here and held a peaceful demonstration without disrupting the flow of traffic in the commercial hub of the city for nearly 90 minutes. Within minutes of the start of the sit-in around noon, leaders and activists of different organisations including rival factions of Hurriyat Conference, Democratic Freedom Party, Islamic Students League, Muslim League and People's League reached there to join the demonstration..

The Hindu, 30 May 2007

### **Fatwa against Operation Sadbhavna (Shujaat Bukhari)**

Srinagar: After moderate Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq objected to the Army's plan of renovating shrines and mosques in the Valley, Kashmirs Grand Mufti gave it a new turn by issuing a fatwa decree that no donation can be accepted from a non Muslim for religious affairs. He asked the people to return the money spent on such constructions. The decree has come as a setback to the Army's Operation Sadbhavna as the Grand Mufti is the highest forum in the case of deciding on religious matters. Much before the Mirwaiz could organise the conference of scholars of Kashmir to deliberate upon the issue, the Mufti Azam Grand Mufti Mohammad Bashiruddin said the Shariat law does not allow any person or persons other than Muslims to do such an act..

The Tribune, 30 May 2007

### **Opinion: Enlarge peace constituency (Firdous Syed)**

KASHMIRS separatist polity is steadily getting radicalised. This is agonising but true. Obviously, the question that needs to be asked now is: how and why does the situation come to such a pass, and who does this benefit? Ever since the advent of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, the moderate space has been under assault. But then there were forces within the separatist camp who all along believed that the problem here was of political nature and not a religious one. Even as the outfits like the Jamiat ul Mujahideen, in the early stages of militancy, tried to wrest control from the nationalists, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front had enough grounding to thwart the move. And the Hizbul Mujahideen has all along resisted the assertion of the likes of Lashker and Jaish to make Kashmir militancy as part of a pan Islamic agenda.

Kashmir Times, 30 May 2007

### **Either: Destabilization over demilitarization**

With hardly a little over a year left the two main constituents of the ruling coalition of Jammu and Kashmir are once again engaged in the most unseemly exchange of

unparliamentary words in public. The issue is the fairly old one, demilitarisation. While the PDP makes it a point to demand demilitarisation, in the interest of peace, their Congress counterparts, including the chief minister, and most unfortunately also the governor himself, never miss a single opportunity to emphasise the imagined dangers of demilitarisation. The PDP points out that the civil society of Kashmir is literally groaning under the over bearing presence of the Indian army, whom the average Kashmiri fears more than the militants. So, according to them, any talk with the separatists to be fruitful must be preceded by a gradual withdrawal of the army to be replaced by the state police and the revocation of the dreaded AFSPS.

Daily Excelsior, 30 May 2007

### **All party meet fails to take any decision**

Jammu, May 29: An all party political committee, set up by the Government on issues of delimitation, relocation and increase in Assembly seats and relief to West Pakistani and other refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971, which met in Srinagar today ended without taking any decision except that it would again meet on June 4. PDP, the main coalition partner of Congress, abstained from the meeting. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has strongly denounced convening of an all party meet by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in Srinagar on May 12 on the issues on the ground that 25 per cent proportionate increase in Assembly seats of all three regions has already been approved by the Cabinet while issue of refugees was debated by the Working Group set up by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh..

Greater Kashmir, 31 May 2007

### **Entangled in troop cut noose, PDP struggling for breather (Naseer Ganai)**

Srinagar, May 30: State governments recommendation to New Delhi categorically ruling out any reduction of troops from Jammu and Kashmir has put the coalitions major partner Peoples Democratic Party PDP in an appalling situation. For PDP it would be not easy to justify its continuation in a government that has time and again snubbed it openly on a major policy plank of the party, analysts say. Being a major stake holder in the coalition government and obviously privy to its important decisions, PDP has little justification in raising the pitch publicly over the troop reduction issue instead of forcing withdrawal of such a recommendation from the government, a senior political analyst told Greater Kashmir on Wednesday..

Daily Excelsior, 31 May 2007

### **Azad meets Central leaders**

New Delhi, May 30: With alliance partners Congress and PDP having taken divergent stands on troop cut in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad is here meeting senior Central leaders apprising them about the militancy situation in the State. Azad met the Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil for an hour and discussed the situation in the State and the rise in infiltration activities from across the border, a figure according to the security agencies, has doubled from January to April compared to the corresponding period last year. The Chief Minister shared the recent minutes of the meetings of the Unified Headquarters chaired by him with the Home Minister.

Indian Express, 31 May 2007

**After eviction, its encroachment time for Kashmiri**

May 30: Panun Kashmir, an organisation of displaced Kashmir Pandits, on Wednesday said vested interests have grabbed a number of properties of Hindus in Kashmir valley and urged the state government to take stern action against the guilty. We have received several reports that some vested interests in Kashmir valley have been grabbing the properties, including agriculture lands, residential houses and religious premises, of displaced Hindus in different parts of Kashmir, Chairman of PK, Agnishekhar said on Wednesday. A fact finding team sent by us recently to the valley has reported that many places have been grabbed by vested interests in the valley, he said..

Kashmir Times, 31 May 2007

**Opinion: Debating Division, deprivation and discrimination II (Bashir Assad)**

There is a variety of leadership from separatist to mainstream who have been entrusted this job by either Pakistan or India to vitiate the atmosphere of conflict resolution based on give and take panacea. One can justifiably differ with National Conference and its leadership on one side and BJP on the contrary yet the fact remains that these are still the only two political forces with unambiguous schema, notwithstanding how serious and sincere they are in the implementation of their respective agenda. Minus these two, everybody operating from Jammu and Kashmir has a hidden agenda and Sajad Ghani Lone surely falls under this category. Back home, India is deliberately fashioning confusion in the Kashmiri minds to ride over them by making more and more voices irrelevant with the sole purpose of applying its writ in the state..

The Tribune, 31 May 2007

**Omar decries visa denial to Pak nationals (SP Sharma)**

Jammu, May 30: National Conference chief Omar Abdullah today expressed anguish about India denying visas to Pakistanis for participating in the Kashmir specific conference of Pugwash that had been cancelled because of this reason. The conference was to be held at Mumbai on June 3 and 4. Abdullah, after touring the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch for 10 days, said the step did not help the peace process between the two countries. He said when Pakistan had no objection to giving visas to the J&K based leaders of the BJP, the Congress, the National Conference and the PDP for participating in the Islamabad conference of Pugwash last year, why should India not reciprocate in the same manner.

Kashmir Times, 31 May 2007

**Editorial: Belligerence amidst peace**

..At the moment, the borders appear to be sealed for any delegations of any kind. India has twice rejected visas to Pakistani delegates of the Pugwash Conference on Kashmir resolution, forcing the organizers to cancel the April meeting, on grounds that this was clashing with the round table conference, and now even the meeting scheduled to be held in first week of June has been postponed indefinitely for apparently no reason at all. Similarly, Pakistan was equally ruthless in outrightly rejecting visas for the Pakistan India Peoples Forum for Peace and Democracy PIPFPD, few days before the joint convention was to be held on May 18. Ironically, the visa denial came after an assurance

from Pakistan government that about 250 delegates would be given the visa. PIPFPD has been consistently working on peace between two countries for the last 15 years and has played a crucial role in bringing the two countries closer to the ongoing peace process..