The Hindu, 1 November 2004

**Visa racket busted, one arrested**

NEW DELHI, OCT. 31. One person has been arrested by the Crime Branch of the Delhi police for allegedly duping people of huge amounts of money in the name of providing them visas for the United Kingdom. He had earlier been arrested in similar cases along with his partner who is absconding. The police said one Bhisham Singh had approached Gursharan Singh, a resident of Gurdaspur district in Punjab, about two months ago. Bhisham had assured him that he knew people who could get him visa for the UK.

The Hindu, 2 November 2004

**Gawli held, released on bail**

MUMBAI, NOV. 1. The newly-elected Chinchpokli MLA, Arun Gulab Gawli, who faced a string of criminal cases, was today arrested along with his associate on charges of assaulting and threatening a city-based journalist. However, Mr. Gawli and his associate, Sunil Ghate, were later released on bail on a surety bond of Rs. 3,000 each, police sources said. Two other associates of Mr. Gawli were arrested yesterday on the same charges and released on bail, sources said. However, Mr. Gawli had lodged a counter complaint alleging that the journalist was carrying a knife. Mr. Gawli's men had taken Mr. Hafeez to the police station and charged him with possession of a sharp instrument.

The Hindu, 2 November 2004

**Alleged drug peddlers held**

NEW DELHI, NOV. 1. Three alleged drug peddlers, including a top peddler from Nizamuddin, have been arrested by the Narcotics and Crime Prevention Cell of the Delhi police for allegedly possessing heroin in three separate cases. A total of 880 gm of heroin was allegedly recovered from their possession. According to the police, a trap had been laid at Pushpa Bhavan in South Delhi and the suspect was arrested when he appeared on the scene around 11 a.m. The police recovered 510 gm of heroin from the bag of the accused, identified as Sheikh Hannan, a resident of Nizamuddin. In the second case, 29-year-old Lekhraj, a resident of Raghubir Nagar in West Delhi, was arrested from near a temple in Raghubir Nagar on Saturday. Nine packets, containing a total of 105 gm of heroin, was recovered from his possession.

New Indian Express, 2 November 2004

**Ganja plants valued at Rs 60 lakh destroyed**

THENI: The Narcotic Intelligence Bureau (NIB) officials have raided the jungle areas of Theni district and destroyed ganja plants worth Rs 60 lakh in the drug market. Owing to the drought prevailing in the district for the last three years, cultivation of ganja had not been done on an extensive scale in Varusanadu, Panjamthangimalai, Yanaikejam, Pandara Oothu, Velliamalai and other traditional ganja cultivation areas. But following widespread rains, cultivation had been resumed on a large scale. The NIB officials, led by Inspector Ponram and SI Annadurai, who were informed of these cultivation, raided the plantations and found ganja plants thriving on three acres at Ezhumadi. They uprooted 3,000 kgs of ganja plants and set them on fire.

Daily Times, 2 November 2004

**NHMP seizes 311kg of drugs**

LAHORE: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) N-5 Central foiled a smuggling attempt and confiscated 303 Kg of hashish and 8 Kg of opium from a white Suzuki Margalla. Abid Hussain, the spokesman for the NHMP, said that Muhammad Ilyas Warrach, the chief patrolling officer, was patrolling the area when he was informed about a suspicious looking car parked by the roadside near Dina Naath. The officers inspected the vehicle and seized the drugs along with a pistol, 2 gun-magazines and 2 counterfeit license plates. The vehicle, drugs and ammunition were handed over to SHO Phool Nagar (Bhai Pheru). The police are investigating the case.

New Indian Express, 3 November 2004

**Multi-million online drug racket busted**

CHENNAI: The Narcotics Control Bureau has busted a multi-million dollar online drug racket with international operations and detected Customs duty evasion to the tune of several crores. Three engineers, Rajesh Kumar, Yuvaraj and Chandramouli, who were running a front office, Vulcan Direct, at Triplicane here to export schedule H drugs to the United States and their Mumbai-based courier agents have been arrested by the NCB sleuths.

The Hindu, 3 November 2004

**Extortion racket busted, 3 held**

VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2. Three persons who were allegedly running an extortion racket under the name, 'Red Moon,' were arrested by the V Town police on Tuesday. R. Ramakrishna (55), a dismissed police constable, Challa Rao (45) and M. Appa Rao (35) have been threatening a jewellery shop owner, K. Srinivasa Rao, in Kancharapalem area demanding a ransom of Rs.50,000, which has been later scaled down to Rs.15,000. On a tip-off, the police nabbed the trio near Kancharapalemmettu. One air gun, an air pistol and some pellets were recovered.

Dawn, 3 November 2004

**NA body hails ANF role in drug control**

ISLAMABAD: Nov 2: National Assembly standing committee on narcotics control on Tuesday lauded the efforts of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in curbing the menace of drugs in the country through enforcement, community participation and international cooperation. According to a press release, secretary ministry of narcotics and the director-general of the ANF
briefed the committee. The committee was apprised of the organizational structure as well as functions of the ministry.

The Hindu, 5 November 2004
Passport racket smashed
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4. Nine people, including an under-suspension Delhi Police constable and two employees of two international airline agencies, have been arrested by the Indira Gandhi International Airport police here on charges of running a major human trafficking-cum-passport racket through which they were allegedly sending people aboard on forged travel documents. On September 4 night, Immigration officers intercepted a person boarding a flight to Toronto on suspicion that he was travelling on fake documents. He was handed over to the airport police.

The Hindu, 5 November 2004
Special drive to curb gem stone smuggling
SAMBALPUR, NOV. 4. Smuggling of gems stones from the western Orissa districts has become a flourishing and lucrative trade over the years in view of high value of the stones in the international market. Businessmen from different parts of the country, with the help of local brokers, are often seen camping at Deogarh, Rairakh, Nuapara, Kantabanji, Bhawanipatan, Jharsuguda and all other places in western Orissa in search of gem stone deposits to extract the precious stones.

New Indian Express, 5 November 2004
Biscuit bandits strike again
CHENNAI: Biscuit bandits operating on north-bound trains are back. This time, however, they targeted the Tiruchy-bound Express from Howrah. Uttam Shivprasad, the passenger, with a ticket for Chennai was spotted lying unconscious when the train pulled into the Central Station. “The Railway police were on their routine rounds when they saw him unconscious in his seat,” said a senior Railway official.

The Times of India, 6 November 2004
Dons heading for coalition era
MUMBAI: Like Indian politics, even the mafia is heading for coalitions these days. Dawood gang is emerging as a major group in the underworld, with the Guru Satam and Shyam Kishore Garikapatti gangs aligning with it and the Hemant Pujari gang supporting it from outside. On the other hand, the rival Chhota Rajan gang is believed to have roped in the Ejaz Lakdawala and Fazl-ur-Rehman groups into its fold, police sources said.

The Hindu, 7 November 2004
Monica Bedi writes to Manmohan to cancel proceedings
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6. Underworld don Abu Salem's girlfriend Monica Bedi, facing an extradition trial from Portugal to India, has written a pardon letter to the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, requesting the cancellation of all criminal proceedings against her initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. A handwritten letter of Bedi, who completed on September 17 her sentence of two years in Portugal for entering that country on a forged document and continuing to use it for stay there, requested that she be allowed to go to Norway where her parents had immigrated 18 years ago.

The Hindu, 7 November 2004
Fake surety racket busted
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6. A racket in providing surety to criminals on the basis of fake documents has been unearthed by the North-East Delhi police. Seven persons have been arrested in this connection. In the process of gathering information on the gang involved in providing sureties, the Special Staff of the North-East Delhi police managed to trace one of them, identified as Rakesh Kumar. At Rakesh's instance, the police arrested his associates -- Suraj Bhan, Puran Singh, Lallu, Rajesh Kumar, Jagdish Prashad and Deena Nath -- and recovered fake ration cards, fake General Power of Attorney certificates, fake Kisan Vikas Patra, ink remover and thinner from them.

New Indian Express, 7 November 2004
Currency racket: ISI back to its game?
KOCHI: The return of the ISI-controlled counterfeit currency racket to Kerala was a topic of discussion at the recent national conference of Directors General of Police in New Delhi. The revival of the racket is considered as an indicator of the presence of pro-Pakistani elements in Kerala. The special investigation group of the Crime Branch had made huge seizures of fake currency notes from coastal towns of the State recently. The follow-up investigation has confirmed that the notes were smuggled into the country from Nepal and Bangladesh, substantiating doubts about the ISI-link.

Dawn, 7 November 2004
Afghan diplomat held with heroin
PESHAWAR, Nov 6: The Crimes Investigation Department is interrogating the acting Afghan trade commissioner, who was arrested near the Board area on Friday allegedly with 1kg heroin and fake Pakistani currency notes. On a tip-off, the CID personnel stopped the official car of acting Afghan trade commissioner Syed Abdullah Bacha and recovered 1kg heroin and a large number of Pakistani currency notes of Rs500 and Rs1,000 denominations from the vehicle. The car had the foreign mission number-plate, sources said.
International drug peddler Robinson died in Indonesia: Reports

International drug peddler Gorden William Robinson, who was earlier acquitted by the Supreme Court died mysteriously in the Indonesian resort city of Bali two months ago. According to reports, Robinson's real name has been identified as Kevin John Miles. Kathmandu based security sources have confirmed the death of Miles (Robinson). Miles, who entered Nepal with a false identity, was taken into custody in the Tribhwan International Airport (TIA) smuggling 2.3 Kg of heroin in his shoes and suitcase in 2001. He was arrested with a fake identity of Robinson with a British passport.

CBI to press for Monica's extradition

NEW DELHI, NOV. 7. The CBI today said it would press for the extradition of Monica Bedi, underworld don Abu Salem's girlfriend and Bollywood actress, from Portugal. She will have to face trial here for procuring a fake passport to flee the country. The agency would give an appropriate reply to the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, who, after receiving a letter from her seeking pardon, sent it to the CBI Director, CBI sources said here.

Fake note racket busted, 4 held

VIJAYAWADA, NOV.7. The Satyanarayananapuram police on Sunday arrested four persons on charges of running a counterfeit currency racket and seized Rs. 81, 400 worth fake notes, in Rs. 100 denomination. The Circle Inspector north, D.V. Nageswara Rao and SI of Satyanarayananapuram, G. Satyanadam, said on a tip-off, the police took into custody M. Vasu, a textile dealer, while he was allegedly trying to pass off a fake Rs. 100 note as genuine one at a shop in Gandhinagar. Eight fake notes were seized from him.

SC not to close 'Robinson' case

Kathmandu, November 7: The Supreme Court today said it would continue the hearing on the revision of the case against Gorden William Robinson, now identified as a New Zealand national, Kevin John Miles. "The case will continue," Supreme Court joint registrar Durga Prasad Dawadi told this daily. Dawadi said there is no official information yet of his death in Indonesia in August. "If we receive the information officially, the bench can then pardon him," he added. According to a judge, there is another problem in taking Robinson's death as true based on media reports and The New Zealand Herald's website.

Solvent drugs - a harmful new mode of intoxication

PESHAWAR: Solvent drugs, a relatively new mode of intoxication among the poor working class is highly injurious to health and can cause severe mental illness or death within one year of its regular use. "These drugs include adhesives such as glues, petrol and by-products, such as varnish, thinner, benzene and gases like nitrous oxide," said Dr Bashir Ahmad, a consultant psychiatrist at the Government Mental Hospital Peshawar. He said that this form of addiction was more dangerous than smoking hashish and other narcotics.

Two narcotic smugglers nabbed

JAMMU, Nov 9: The Jammu zonal unit of the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), MHA Jammu jointly with the Tiger Division Jammu Army has apprehended one person namely Munir Ahmed son of late Jallalludin of village Bonalla, tehsil Thathri, district Doda for possession of 850 grams of narcotic drug. The joint forces apprehended the accused at Rehari Chungi. During interrogation, Munir disclosed that his accomplice namely Irshad, from whom he had purchased this Drug was present near the Bus Stand. The two accused have been arrested under section 8, 21, 22 and 29 of the NDPS Act 1985 and a case has been registered against both of them for possessing and involving themselves in the sale purchase and transportation of the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

ANF seizes 585kg of morphine

QUETTA: The Anti-Narcotics Force acted on a tip-off and raided an area in a deserted mountainous region in Balochistan to seize 585 kilogrammes of morphine, an official said on Tuesday. The morphine was seized near Dalbadin, 350 kilometres west of Quetta, on Monday where smugglers had dumped the drugs, said ANF spokesman Captain Mohammed Ali. No suspects were present at the time, and there were no arrests, he said. Drug seizures are common in Pakistan, which straddles a smuggling route from Afghanistan's poppy fields to markets in Europe and the Middle East. ap

Kishan gang members nabbed

NEW DELHI, NOV. 9. Four persons, including a Judoka, allegedly owing allegiance to dreaded criminal Kishan Pehalwan, were arrested following an encounter with the Special Cell of the Delhi police from the Mangolpuri Industrial Area in North-West Delhi on Monday. Police claim to have recovered a hand grenade, a Chinese pistol, a double-barrel gun and two country-made pistols from their possession. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Ashok Chand, a team led by Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma received a tip-off that some members of the Kishan Pehalwan gang would come to the Mangolpuri Industrial Area in a Santro car to extort money from a businessman. Subsequently the team laid a trap in the
area and on noticing the vehicle tried to intercept it. Spotting the policemen, those moving in that vehicle allegedly opened fire at them. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they belonged to Kishan Pehalwan gang.

New Indian Express, 10 November 2004
Now, Monica Bedi writes to Kalam for help (PTI)
NEW DELHI: Underworld don Abu Salem's girlfriend Monica Bedi, facing an extradition trial from Portugal, has written to President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam seeking pardon and cancellation of criminal proceedings against her initiated by the CBI and giving her a "second chance". The handwritten letter was received by the President's Secretariat recently, seeking pardon for the mistake of forging a passport at Hyderabad. Bedi, who completed her two-year sentence in Portugal on September 17 this year and continues to be in judicial custody, said she was apologetic but was scared to return as this would seal her fate and she would not be able to see her parents settled in Norway. The actress, in her letter, said Salem had forced her to secure a forged passport but that she had never used it while going out from India or during her stay in Dubai.

New Indian Express, 10 November 2004
'Monica's claims hard to believe'
NEW DELHI: Indian investigative agencies said, the claims of alleged mobster Abu Salem's girlfriend Monica Bedi, made in a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, are hard to believe. In her handwritten letter received by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Bedi has requested cancellation of extradition proceedings against her and "a second chance" in life. Bedi, a small-time Bollywood actress, was nabbed along with Salem, a prime accused in the 1993 Mumbai terror blasts, by Portugal police in Lisbon on September 18, 2002. Bedi claimed that Salem was introduced to her as a Pakistani businessman at a cultural show and it was the don who had forced her to travel along with him to Portugal on a fake passport. But intelligence agencies are surprised at this claim and said she had been Salem's closest confidante for more than a decade.

Kantipur Online, 10 November 2004
Italian nabbed with illegal drugs
KATHMANDU, Nov 10 - Police have arrested Italian national, Kri Francesco in possession of illegal drugs at Thamel on Tuesday night. Francesco, 21, was nabbed with 1400 grams of hashish while heading towards a cargo office in Thamel yesterday night, reported our correspondent Jitendra Sah quoting officials of Narcotics Drug Control Law Enforcement Unit. He was trying to parcel the drugs to Italy by hiding inside a handicraft. Police are investigating the incident further. (dds)

Kantipur Online, 10 November 2004
Nepal, India meeting on Extradition Treaty kicks off
KATHMANDU, Nov 9 - The two-day Joint Secretary level meeting between Nepal and India on Extradition Treaty and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty kicked off in Kathmandu on Tuesday. The meeting aims to finalize the treaties, which were stalled since 2001 after the first proposals were exchanged between both the countries. Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dinesh Bhattarai and Sushil Jung Bahadur Rana of Home Ministry are leading the Nepali side on Extradition Treaty and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty respectively. Similarly, the Indian side is headed by Ashok Amrohi and SK Chatopadhyay on the respective treaties. Nepal and India signed the first extradition treaty on February 10, 1955. Recent moves to amend the treaty were hastened after India proposed a draft for the amendment in 2001-end. (dds)

Kantipur Online, 10 November 2004
Maoists kill soldier, civilian in Nawalparasi
KATHMANDU, Nov 8 - Maoists have killed a soldier and a civilian after their abduction in Nawalparasi district on Sunday night. Our Nawalparasi correspondent reports Maoists shot dead 33-year-old soldier Bhim Bahadur Ale Magar at Pidalu Chowk of Deurali VDC-2 in the district. Ale Magar had come to his hometown on leave on Friday. Similarly, Police said a group of rebels killed 50-year-old Ram Pyare Harjian nearby his house at Sanai VDC-8 on Sunday night. However, Maoists have taken the responsibility of killing the soldier but not of civilian. (dds)

The Hindu, 11 November 2004
Hashish seized
NEW DELHI, NOV. 10. In the first major seizure of narcotics from a passenger at the Delhi airport in the past year, the Central Industrial Security Force on Tuesday night recovered nearly 1.2 kg of hashish from the possession of a Japanese national while he was about to board a flight to Bangkok. It was at about 11 p.m. that the passenger, Yoshioka Shinitaro, was caught while he was going to board a Thai Airways flight (TG-316) to Bangkok. During the frisking in the main security hold area of the International Terminal, the Sub-Inspector of CISF posted there, R.K. Banik, observed that the passenger was nervous and tried to escape from the exercise.

New Indian Express, 11 November 2004
He is one-man fake note-making industry
VIJAYAWADA: Computer savvy P Sriram Babu of Hyderabad was able to circulate fake notes worth Rs 15 lakh all over the State. Armed with latest software and sophisticated scanners and printers, he set up a one-man fake-note-making industry and made lakhs of rupees, literally, sitting at his room in Hyderabad. But his dreams crashed after he and his four aides walked into the Anti Goonda Squad dragnet in Krishna district. The cops seized more than Rs 3 lakh worth of fake currency and the total worth of fake currency being circulated in the State amounted to Rs 30 lakh.
The Assam Tribune, 11 November 2004

Counterfeit notes racket busted in Tripura
AGARTALA, Nov 10 - BSF has smashed a racket dealing in fake Indian currency, seized counterfeit notes with face value of more than Rs 18,000 and arrested three persons in this connection from a border village in Tripura's Dhalai district, police said today. Acting on a tip-off, the BSF personnel chased an auto-rickshaw and intercepted it at Garad Tilla, a border village yesterday. They recovered fake currency with a face value of Rs. 18,900, the police said. The three arrested included the driver of the autorickshaw.

Dawn, 11 November 2004

Large quantity of morphine seized
QUETTA, Nov 10: The Frontier Corps on Wednesday seized a huge quantity of drugs and ammunition from the Chagai area close to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. According to FC sources, Afghan smugglers had brought a huge quantity of fine-quality morphine and illegal ammunition into Chagai from Afghanistan for dispatching it to European countries and the Gulf through the Makran coast. On receiving information, FC troops cordoned off the area and launched a search. They recovered 1,195 kg of morphine and illegal ammunition during the operation.

Daily Times, 11 November 2004

Underworld contacts behind top cop's removal: Sindh CM
KARACHI: Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim on Wednesday said a senior police officer Fayyaz Leghari was removed from the post of DIG Operations because "we have got proof that he had links with the underworld." "He had links with the underworld and we have ample proof against him," said Dr Rahim, talking to journalists at an Iftar dinner hosted by the provincial advisor for information, Salahuddin Haider, at the Karachi Gymkhana. "As far as investigations against Mr Leghari are concerned, I am satisfied and we have even got audiocassettes as part of the evidences," he claimed.

Kantipur Online, 11 November 2004

Jail officials involved in providing phones to Shobraj: Report (Jitendra Sah)
KATHMANDU, Nov 10 - International criminal and French national Charles Shobraj, who is serving life imprisonment in jail, had secret links with the security personnel in receiving mobile telephones, the government reports said. A detailed report of the three-member government investigation committee Wednesday said that the security personnel at the Central Jail and other officials had been involved in providing the communication assets to Shobraj. The committee in its report submitted to the Home Ministry, said: "Telephone owners and officials in and outside the jail were involved in the incident."

The New Indian Express, 13 November 2004

Cases filed against 100 persons in certificate scam
MADURAI: Cases have been filed against 100 persons including doctors, sub-inspectors and some officials of the insurance company GIC and ESI in a scam in which over Rs.20 crore was claimed showing false certificates, DVAC sources said. Fake medical certificates and false accident FIRs had been used to defraud the insurance companies, income tax department (for its exemptions) in Madurai region, the sources said.

The Hindu, 13 November 2004

Job racket: team to check firm's assets
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 12. The Police Commissioner, B. Prasada Rao, has said a team has been sent to Chennai to gather details about the assets of a computer firm which collected money from thousands of people as "deposits" in lieu of a "job from home". The Commissioner assured the delegations of DYFI, SFI, AIDWA and NSUI -- who submitted a memorandum to him -- that justice would be done to those who had deposited money with the firm, Log Sanchara Comp-Tech, for software outsourcing work.

Southasianmedia.net, 16 November 2004

Pakistan's growing drug culture
Dealers dressed in baseball caps, baggy jeans and loose t-shirts milled around selling ecstasy for as low as $11 and as high as $25 a tab, cocaine for about a $100 a gram, acid for $10 a hit, and fifty grams of hashish for about $15. The gathering, one of many in Pakistan's financial capital, demonstrated how the drug culture common to many Western capitals, has made inroads in one of the world's strictest Islamic states.

News of Nepal, 17 November 2004

New Indo-Nepal extradition pact proposed
KATHMANDU: The council of ministers Monday [15 Nov.] held special discussions on the disputed extradition treaty between India and Nepal and has proposed an alternative, Nepal Samacharpatra said. Nepal opposed an Indian proposal for the extradition of third country nationals. But the meeting of the political committee of council of ministers Monday decided not to extradite third country nationals; it also decided to try third country nationals for anti-India crimes in Nepal and approved a proposal to allow Indian lawyers to plead such cases. According to a source, the alternate proposal will be presented at a meeting of home secretaries to be held in New Delhi in the third week of November.

The Hindu, 18 November 2004

Heroin becomes a street drug (Devesh K. Pandey)
NEW DELHI, NOV. 17. Heroin, a deadly man-made drug which until not long ago was far from the reach of the common man, has made deep inroads into the Indian market now. That heroin has become a street drug is no longer an overstatement as statistics reveal that it has now become commonplace in the Capital. The Delhi police so far this year have registered close to 200 cases pertaining to sale and possession of heroin. Over 80 of them have been registered by the Narcotics Branch, in which about 130 people have been arrested. In the nine police districts, over 140 people have been arrested on the same charges. During these operations, an estimated 150 kg of heroin was seized, of which the Narcotics Branch recovered over 132 kg.

The Hindu, 18 November 2004

Narcotics seized from party animals

CHENNAI: A rave party organised by a disc jockey from Bangalore at the VGP Village resort in Nallur near Hosur was busted by the Narcotics Control Bureau early on Wednesday morning and the disc jockey, Jimmy, was arrested. Cocaine, ecstasy tablets, ganja, alcohol and cigarettes that were being distributed by the organisers to more than 150 persons who had come to take part in the party were also seized by the NCB. When the resort was raided many young people were dancing to the rhythm of trance music that was played and also drinking and smoking, officials said.

Dawn, 19 November 2004

Afghan opium crop at record high: UN

BRUSSELS, Nov 18: Afghanistan's opium cultivation jumped 64 per cent to a record 131,000 hectares this year and drug exports now account for more than 60 per cent of the economy, the United Nations drugs office said on Thursday. "This year Afghanistan has established a double record - the highest drug cultivation in the country's history, and the largest in the world," Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, said at a news briefing. Opium, the raw material for heroin, was grown in all Afghanistan's 32 provinces this year. Ten per cent of the population, or 2.3 million people, helped farm it because grinding poverty made it more attractive than other crops.

The Hindu, 20 November 2004

7 killed in Bihar violence (K. Balchand)

PATNA, NOV. 19. The four-day Chhath festival, revering the Sun God, concluded on a violent note in the State today with seven persons being killed in two incidents. The incidents were reported from Begusarai and Munger districts. At Munger, an RJD leader, Sanjay Yadav, his brother, Pramod, and two others were gunned down allegedly by a gang led by Krishna Yadav at Patam, 10 km from the district headquarters. Five others were injured in the incident.

The Hindu, 23 November 2004

Two engineers abducted in Bihar (K. Balchand)

PATNA, NOV. 19. Two senior engineers of the National Hydro Power Corporation, a Union public sector undertaking, were abducted from Vaishali district today. The general manager, T. Mandal, and the chief engineer, K.K. Singh, were on their way to Bettiah from here when they were abducted. The incident came to light when the driver of the vehicle, who had been drugged, regained consciousness and reported the matter to the police.

The Hindu, 20 November 2004

'Extortionist' arrested

NEW DELHI, NOV. 19. An alleged extortionist carrying a reward of Rs. 10,000 on his head has been arrested by the Inter-State Cell of the Delhi police Crime Branch. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), Tejinder Luthra, the Inter-State Cell received a tip-off that two extortionists from Haryana, identified as Hiramal and Shamsaher, were threatening a South Delhi-based builder.

The Hindu, 21 November 2004

Officials' kidnap: NHPC threatens to suspend work (K. Balchand)

PATNA, NOV. 20. Even as police raided the houses of the Lok Janatantrik Party (LJP) MLA, Vijay Shukla alias Munna Shukla, in connection with the abduction of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation’s (NHPC) senior officials, the NHPC top brass warned that it would stop work in the State if the two officials were harmed. The State police raided Mr. Shukla's houses here and in Muzaffarpur for clues in connection with the kidnapping of the NHPC general manager, T. Mandal, and the chief engineer, K. K. Singh, who were kidnapped in Vaishali district yesterday.

Daily Excelsior, 23 November 2004

Fake certificates racket busted

JAMMU, Nov 22: Police today busted a racket involved in preparing fake State Subjects and revenue stamps and arrested the main kingpin-former employee of Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu. From the possession of the accused, a former employee of the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL)-police recovered revenue stamps of Tehsildars of different tehsils and this created suspicion. He was immediately taken into custody and put to sustained interrogation at Satwari Police Station.

The Hindu, 23 November 2004
2.5 kg heroin seized
TUTICORIN, NOV. 22. The Narcotics Intelligence Bureau (NIB) today seized 2.5 kg of heroin from three persons here. R. Subramanian, Deputy Superintendent of Police (NIB), told media persons here that the arrest took place after the bureau received a tip-off that the three were moving along Tuticorin- Madurai bypass road with some banned substances. Immediately, a decoy was employed to ‘buy’ the banned substances from them. While the decoy was ‘purchasing’ the heroin, the NIB sleuths arrested the accused.

Daily Excelsior, 30 November 2004

Indo-Pak talks on narcotics postponed
NEW DELHI, Nov 29: The two-day technical-level talks between Narcotics Control authorities of India and Pakistan, which were to begin here today, have been postponed till December 13-14, official sources said. However, the meeting between the railway authorities of the two countries on the Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link, that would connect Rajasthan with Sindh in Pakistan, would be held as scheduled on December 2-3 in Islamabad, the sources added.

The Hindu, 30 November 2004

Passport racket busted
NEW DELHI, NOV. 29. The Indira Gandhi International Airport police have smashed a racket in providing passports to people using fraudulent means. One person has been arrested in this connection. According to the police, the immigration authorities detained Jitender Singh from Gurdaspur in Punjab when he was about to board an Aeroflot flight to Moscow on November 29. He was travelling on a passport issued in the name of one Rohit Kumar, a resident of Laxmi Nagar in East Delhi.