

Daily Excelsior, 1 November 2007

We achieved success which eluded others: Mufti

Former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today claimed that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had achieved success, which eluded earlier attempts, in issues raised by it such as opening of traditional road links, ensuring relief to the people in security measures and reduction of troops. Addressing a public meeting at Shangus in Anantnag district, he said his party has transformed the political discourse in the State by piloting successfully and with conviction, the crucial issues concerning the State and its people. Mr Sayeed said the emerging positive and feasible scenario, propelled by the PDP's pro-people policies, has set the trend for the ultimate and amicable resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Daily Excelsior, 1 November 2007

Antony hints at further easing security procedures

Further easing of security procedures in Jammu and Kashmir can be considered, if the situation continues to improve there, the Centre today said. Just back after undertaking a comprehensive review of security situation with senior Army commanders and State Government officials in Srinagar, Antony told newsmen here that Government wanted to keep up the momentum towards normalisation. He also said that he had ordered a monitoring of all human right violations complaints against security forces. "We will personally keep a watch and set up a mechanism to ensure that all complaints of human right violations were looked into promptly," he said.

Kashmir Times, 1 November 2007

Geelani invited for Kashmir conference in UK

Breakaway Hurriyat Conference Chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani has been invited by the London-based Justice Foundation Kashmir Centre to attend a two-day international conference on Kashmir in the United Kingdom (UK) from November 28. In its invitation letter to Geelani, the Justice Foundation Kashmir Centre said it was holding its third conference on Kashmir _ "60 Years of the Kashmir Dispute - A Way Forward."

Greater Kashmir, 1 November 2007

Troops yet to begin vacating govt buildings

Troops were yet to begin the process of vacating school buildings and health institutions across Kashmir, as the deadline for getting the government infrastructure vacated from troops by this month-end approaches. We are yet to start the process of physically shifting the troops from the government buildings in the Kashmir valley, Defence spokesman Lt Col A K Mathur told UNI. However, he said the government buildings, mainly schools and hospitals, have been identified and the discussions on getting these vacated had already commenced. The process will gradually start after finalising the alternative accommodation. We are at present looking for alternative arrangements, Col Mathur added.

Greater Kashmir, 1 November 2007

PDP-Congress in JK alliance not for power-sharing: Baig

Former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister and senior Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig said Thursday his party alliance with the Congress was guided by certain principles and not merely a power-sharing arrangement. Addressing a public meeting here, he said the PDP would respect and continue in the ruling alliance as long as the coalition delivers on its commitment to restore and uphold the honour and dignity of the people, which was his party's main agenda.

Daily Excelsior, 4 November 2007

Mufti flays emergency in Pak

Calling the imposition of emergency in Pakistan an inopportune happening, former Chief Minister and patron of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti Mohammed Sayeed hoped that it would be a transitional phase and establishment in Pakistan would ensure return of democratic set-up at the earliest. Addressing a rally at village Jandiyaal, Mufti Sayeed said that Pakistan has been passing through tough times. He, however, prayed to almighty for early possible return of democracy in the neighbouring country.

Hindustan Times, 4 November 2007

Emergency in Pakistan draws flak in Kashmir

Imposition of emergency rule by President Pervez Musharraf has upset Kashmiris, who think the "unfortunate" development in Pakistan will have a direct bearing on the peace process with India. "This is an unfortunate development. It means the peace process between India and Pakistan would now be relegated to the backburner. Kashmir cannot remain any priority for Pakistan in such a situation," said Abdul Rahim Rather, a National Conference legislator and the leader of the opposition in assembly here. Separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who has been vociferously targeting Musharraf's policies over Kashmir, has condemned the development in the neighbouring country.

Greater Kashmir, 5 November 2007

Morale of troops more important for GoI than rights of Kashmiris

Morale of troops is more important for Government of India than rights of Kashmiri people which is the reason for increase in human rights violations in the state, a senior lawyer and a Human Rights activist from New Delhi told Greater Kashmir on Sunday. "I see Kashmir as a place where widespread and systematic HR violations are being done by the state. The Union Home Ministry isn't giving sanctions to prosecute any Army officer involved in rights violations as for them people of Kashmir are less important than morale of troops," said Vrinda Grover, a New Delhi based lawyer on the sidelines of a two-day workshop organized by Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) here.

Daily Excelsior, 5 November 2007

Malik to again start his march

Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman, Mohammad Yasin Malik today said that "safar-e-azadi" march will be started again in Jammu division to create unity and communal harmony at gross root level in the State. He also blamed the Government of India for spreading regionalism and communalism in the State. Malik, who had proposed a nine day "Safari-e-azadi" march from Doda from Monday morning was detained and

sent back, without any march, to Srinagar by Doda Police as prohibitory orders under section 144 were already in force in Doda town

Daily Excelsior, 6 November 2007

Emergency in Pakistan may affect peace process: Azad

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has said that emergency in Pakistan will cause impact on the ongoing peace process between the two neighbouring countries and growing disturbances on that side of the border will cast some affect in Kashmir. While talking to media persons after the reopening of the Darbar at winter capital here today, Mr Azad said, "The emergency in Pakistan is not a new thing. The internal situation in Pakistan has given a temporary set back to the ongoing peace process between both the countries. The turmoil in Pak has not completely stalled the peace process but we want that it should not be derailed and be carried along up to its logical conclusion."

Daily Excelsior, 6 November 2007

Mufti favours opening of Suchetgarh-Sialkot route

Opening of Suchetgarh-Sialkot route would further descend the walls of hatred and transform the region into a powerful peace block. This was stated by patron of People's Democratic Party (PDP) and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed while addressing a public rally at R S Pura today. Opening Suchetgarh-Sialkot route would restore economic and socio-cultural ties between two parts of the State, he said, adding when Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes were opened, speculations were rife that it would be a grievous decision but time has proved that the decision was an act of wisdom.

Greater Kashmir, 6 November 2007

Do not support politicians: Geelani

Chairman Hurriyat (G) Syed Ali Shah Geelani Tuesday urged the people not to support the pro-Indian politicians as their hands are drenched with blood of Kashmiri people. The sacrifices made by the people of Kashmir shouldnt let go waste, Geelani said while commenting on atrocities and killings committed by the troops during a seminar Agar Ab Be Na Jage To organised by the Muslim League to remember the martyrs of November 6, 1947 who were killed by the soldiers of Maharaja in conspiracy with other Hindu parties.

Daily Excelsior, 7 November 2007

Govt committed to economic stability: Azad; "4000 ownership right letters handed over to farmers"

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said the year 2007 was historic from the point of view that there were very less human rights violations and not a single custodial killing disappearance has been reported so far. "If all goes well in remaining about two months, this will be for the first time after beginning of militancy that no custodial disappearance will be reported in the State", he said addressing a gathering on the occasion of disbursement of 4000 letters conferring ownership rights to farmers of Jammu and Akhnoor tehsils on the State land under Roshni scheme. He described allotment of ownership rights to the farmers free of cost as a "Diwali gift" to them from the State Government.

Daily Excelsior, 7 November 2007

PDP wants to rig polls: Farooq

Despite sharp differences and bitter relations with the main alliance partner Congress, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been continuing in the coalition Government with the sole aim to remain in power and indulge into large scale riggings in the Assembly elections due next year. This was stated by former Chief Minister and patron of National Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah in an informal chat with the media-persons after inaugurating a public park on the name of Madr-e-Meherban at Lower Gujjar Nagar this morning. Notwithstanding rift with the Congress over several issues, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has recently changed its stance and started showering all the praises on its main alliance partner Congress just to fulfill the lust of remaining in the power, he alleged.

Greater Kashmir, 7 November 2007

From second most corrupt state to least

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said his initiative to eradicate corruption has helped the state to do away with the label of second corrupt state. Jammu and Kashmir was labelled as second most corrupt State in three years back but today it must be at the bottom of the list of corrupt states, thanks to the measures taken by my government to curb corruption and promote healthy work culture, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 8 November 2007

Security along Jammu border intensified: Virk

The security along nearly 200 kms of International Border has been intensified in view of emergency imposed in Pakistan. Officiating Inspector General of Border Security Force, Jammu Frontier, G S Virk said that security along Jammu border has been increased in view of prevailing situation in the neighbouring country. He said after imposition of emergency in Pakistan, the situation has turned explosive there. Though the situation was calm and peaceful on the border, yet the BSF men were put on high alert along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.

Daily Excelsior, 8 November 2007

Mehbooba flays backdoor appointments

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti today asked the Congress-led coalition Government to come clean on "backdoor and illegal" appointments made under influence as it was brewing unrest among the unemployed youth. Addressing a public meeting at Thied, Harwan, on the city outskirts, she asked the Ghulam Nabi Azad Government to come out with a clear policy on recruitment as the recurrent reports of "backdoor and illegal" appointments being made in various departments under political influence were brewing a strong wave of unrest and resentment among the educated unemployed youth.

Greater Kashmir, 10 November 2007

Pak reiterates support for Kashmir cause

Reiterating Pakistan's unflinching support to the Kashmir cause, Hamid Nasir Chatta, the

chairman of Parliamentary Kashmir Committee has urged India to adopt a pragmatic approach regarding the settlement of lingering Kashmir dispute so that peace and stability could prevail in South Asian region. Addressing a meeting of the committee here Thursday, Chatta said that his country would support the people of Jammu and Kashmir morally, politically and diplomatically until they achieve their inalienable right, the right of self-determination.

Greater Kashmir, 11 November 2007

Salahuddin condemns Army atrocities on Pattan residents

Chairman United Jihad Council Syed Salahuddin on Sunday strongly condemned the fresh spate of atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir. He accused Army of not only killing the Kashmiri people but also inflicting huge financial losses on them in revenge for their unflinching affiliation with the freedom struggle. In a statement, Salahuddin cited the instances of Sopur and Pattan where the troops were alleged to have torched as well as looted dozens of houses and said the happenings reflected the mindset of Indian army which seemed to be deriving satisfaction and pleasure from killings and vandalism.

Daily Excelsior, 13 November 2007

Emergency continuation of Pak legacy: Governor

Governor Lt. General (Retd) S K Sinha today said that clamping of emergency in Pakistan is not an aberration but continuation of the legacy it has inherited from military junta ever since the creation of Pakistan. "Pak history is replete of the incidences of imposition of martial law, the first being engineered by Major Brown with the help of Gilgit Scouts in 1947", he said while replying to questions of elders from Kupwara district in an interactive session after their return from **Wattan Ki Seir** organized by the Army under 'Operation Sadhbhavna'.

Greater Kashmir, 13 November 2007

Cabinet to meet on Friday, top level transfers on cards

With the main agenda of transfers of senior bureaucrats of the state administration, the state cabinet is going to meet on Friday. According to highly placed sources, the cabinet which will be meeting on Friday is going to discuss the transfers and postings of Commissioner level bureaucrats in the wake of retirement of senior bureaucrats from the state administration.

Greater Kashmir, 13 November 2007

Troops damaging JK economy

Accusing Army of committing **loot and plunder** in Sopur and Pattan, chairman of the Hurriyat Conference (G) Syed Ali Geelani on Tuesday said forces were inflicting massive and irrecoverable damage to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, and making the people of Valley financially unstable. **The occupational forces were involved in loot, plunder and damage of the properties worth crores of rupees of civilians during Sopur and Pattan encounters, it becomes responsibility of government of India to compensate the victims,** Geelani told reporters at his Hyderabad residence

Greater Kashmir, 13 November 2007

Peace talks moving in right direction: Pak

Expressing optimism that the ongoing peace process would help India and Pakistan to hammer out a solution to the longstanding Kashmir dispute, Pakistan foreign office has said that the dialogue process was heading towards right direction. Talking to Pakistan Television (PTV), the spokesman Muhammad Sadiq noted that since the initiation of the composite dialogue both the countries have adopted several confidence-building measures that helped to normalize the situation and diminishing the escalating tension when armed forces of the two countries were standing eyeball-to-eyeball on the either sides of the international border in 2002.

Greater Kashmir, 14 November 2007

Third front coming up before elections?

Srinagar, Nov 14: Growing dissent among various pro-India political parties is likely to lead to the emergence of a third front in the state before the next assembly elections.

◆??Formation of third front will come as a respite for the people as they will have a choice,◆?? Transport Minister and senior Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) leader Hakim Muhammad Yasin told Greater Kashmir on Wednesday.

Daily Excelsior, 15 November 2007

Azad hopes peace process will move forward

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has said that with the setting up of Tourism Development Authorities and developing tourist circuit in Rajouri and Poonch by the coalition Government, the twin districts would prominently emerge on the tourism map of the State. As part of generating economic activity in the area, Azad said that Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch tourist circuit is also being developed. He said wayside tourist facilities are being put in place at tourist spots to boost economic development in the area as also generate employment avenues.

Daily Excelsior, 15 November 2007

No chance of tie-up with Cong: Omar

National Conference president Omar Abdullah today indicated pre-ponement of Assembly elections in the State, due in the end of next year, by few months and said he didn't foresee any possibility of an alliance with the Congress. In an informal chat with newsmen at a luncheon, the NC leader, however, admitted that there was nothing impossible or nothing can be ruled out in the politics.

Greater Kashmir, 15 November 2007

NO PRE-POLL ALLIANCE: OMAR

Putting at rest all speculations of entering into pre-poll alliance with Congress in next Assembly elections, National Conference President Omar Abdullah today said his party will contest the elections independently with Dr. Farooq Abdullah as Chief Ministerial candidate. Omar who was addressing media persons at a press conference here today was prompt to decline the possibility of having a pre-poll alliance while putting to rest the

rumors about NC-Congress going together in next Assembly elections.

Greater Kashmir, 15 November 2007

Geelani worried over cultural invasion

Hurriyat Conference (G) chief Syed Ali Geelani on Thursday charged New Delhi and the state government with changing the cultural and religious identity of people of Kashmir. Addressing a seminar organised by his Tehreek-e-Hurriyat here to mark the 130th birth anniversary of Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Geelani said, "Cultural war has been started by India and its agencies in Kashmir to change the identity of our young generation."

Daily excelsior, 16 November 2007

Reservation for SCs, STs in promotions enhanced

The State Cabinet today approved recommendations of a Committee headed by the then Chief Secretary C. Phunsog regarding enhancement of the percentage of quota for SCs and STs in promotions. With this, the percentage in promotion quota in respect of SCs and STs as prescribed under SRO 126 of 1994 has been restored. This would mean 8 percent reservation where direct recruitment quota is 25 percent or less and 4 percent where it is more than 25 percent.

Greater Kashmir, 16 November 2007

Valley's troopography shocks PaK women

A women's delegate from Pakistan-administered Kashmir on Friday expressed shock over the heavy presence of troops in the Valley and said the other Kashmir was far more developed than this Kashmir. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference here, Dr Zahida Qasim, a pathologist from Mirpur, said people here are frightened. "Everyone is frightened here; it seems they are choked. The heavy troops' presence, it seems is the reason for it." Dr Zahida, who is also a writer and poet, said, "In Azad Kashmir we don't have any such problem, we can move freely anywhere and we are not frightened."

Greater Kashmir, 16 November 2007

No solution within Indian constitution

Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Friday said people won't accept any solution to Kashmir problem within the ambit of Indian constitution. "We are not ready to accept status-quo, neither are we ready to accept any solution within the ambit of Indian constitution," Mirwaiz told Greater Kashmir. Mirwaiz accused pro-Indian parties of "creating confusion" in the name of Kashmir resolution. "National Conference's concept of autonomy and PDP's self rule falls within the ambit of Indian constitution."

Greater Kashmir, 16 November 2007

Cabinet approves one more IRP bn

The State Cabinet which met here Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister

Ghulam Nabi Azad approved raising of one more Indian Reserve Police battalion comprising five women companies under Prime Minister's Development Programme. This would be the 15th IRP Battalion in the state.

Greater Kashmir, 16 November 2007

Remain firm on your resolve: Geelani

Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (G) Syed Ali Geelani on Friday urged the people of Kashmir to remain firm on their resolve for taking Kashmir movement to its logical end. India is only interested in our land and has no value for Kashmiris. In the disguise of so-called security Kashmiris are subjected to unnecessary harassment. And we need to remain aware of the conspiracies, and we should strengthen our resolve to take the ongoing freedom struggle to its logical conclusion, Geelani told a gathering at Sher-Bagh here.

Daily Excelsior, 18 November 2007

Mayawati favours reservations to backward

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mayawati today called for reservation to economically backward classes among upper castes and religious minorities in all sectors and declared that the BSP will give them reservations if the party was voted to power at the Centre. Addressing a mammoth public meeting, which had been named Sarv Samaj Bhaichara Banao Sammelan in sprawling lawns of Mini Stadium, Parade Ground here this afternoon during her one day visit, Mayawati reiterated the BSP demand for reservations in private sector in all States as well as national level. She pointed out that her Government in Uttar Pradesh has already implemented the reservations in private sector.

Daily Excelsior, 18 November 2007

Intra-Kashmir women's conference ends

A three-day Intra-Kashmir women's conference concluded here today during which more than 50 women from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) discussed the possibilities of finding a common ground for giving a push to ongoing peace efforts. The conference, connecting women across the LoC, was organised by the New Delhi-based Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation (CDR) in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centres of Jammu and Kashmir Universities.

Daily Excelsior, 19 November 2007

Despite emergency, LoC crossers create record

In spite of emergency in Pakistan notwithstanding, a highest number of 158 persons crossed Chakkan Da Bagh point on Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch-Rawalakote bus service during fortnightly crossing in Poonch district today. During more than two years of the opening of LoC point, presently the only one in entire Jammu region after the closure of Tatta Pani, the second point, a maximum of 139 persons had crossed the point

so far on a single day. While authorities were expecting a decline in the number of visitors from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) after emergency was clamped in Pakistan, the number has, significantly, gone up.

Daily Excelsior, 19 November 2007

J&K people have lost faith in New Delhi: Mulayam

Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav today said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Congress leadership have

totally failed in fulfilling their promise of zero tolerance against the Human Rights violations in troubled Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a rally of party workers at the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here, he claimed that the rights abuse continued unabated in the strife-torn State. Human Rights violations are continuing unabated in Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister and the Congress leadership have totally failed in fulfilling their promise of zero tolerance against the human rights abuses in the State. Mr Yadav said.

Daily Excelsior, 19 November 2007

Act on commitment to curb human rights violations: Mufti

Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said the commitment to curb the human rights violations in the strife-torn State must be followed up with substantial action and a practical policy as a fundamental input to the peace process. Addressing a day-long convention of PDP workers at Devsar in Anantnag district, Mr Sayeed said the recent unfortunate incidents at Kupwara and Damhal Hanjipora seem to have vitiated the atmosphere and there was an urgent need to address the people's concerns to prevent the reversal of the peace and normalisation process.

Greater Kashmir, 19 November 2007

NC TO RETHINK ON ACCESSIO

Conditions created by the Army in the state has forced my party to rethink about Kashmir's accession with India, former Chief Minister and National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah said on Monday. After killing of a schoolteacher in Kupwara and a baker in Kulgam by Army we've been forced to think whether the decision of Maharaja Hari Singh and my late father Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah to accede to India in 1947 was right? Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a book release function here.

Greater Kashmir, 19 November 2007

Mulayam blames Delhi for Kashmir unrest

Former Union Defence Minister and Samajwadi Party president Mulayam Singh on Monday held New Delhi responsible for unrest in Kashmir and said that

Congress governments in New Delhi have never allowed anyone to rule in the state freely. ♦??New Delhi has always remained aggressive vis-a-vis Kashmir and has always interfered with the governments here, making them unstable. This is one of the causes of unrest, ♦?? Mulayam told reporters on the sidelines of a party convention here.

Greater Kashmir, 20 November 2007

K-solution through UN resolutions only: Geelani

Chairman Hurriyat Conference (G) Syed Ali Geelani has said no peace plan can go forward without realization of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people and reiterated that issue could only be resolved through UN resolutions and meaningful dialogue. Addressing Nazmeen Convention of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK held at Birmingham by telephone from Srinagar, he said, ♦??India was using carrot as well as the stick to persuade the people of Kashmir accept its illegitimate occupation. ♦??

Greater Kashmir, 21 November 2007

Kashmir resolution must for peace: Pak

The caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Mian Soomro has said that the long-running Kashmir dispute should be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir so as to ensure peace and stability in South Asia. He said that Pakistan has always supported Kashmiris??? just cause and that the resolution of the unresolved dispute will lead to a sustainable peace in the region.

Daily Excelsior, 22 November 2007

Blood is thicker than borders

Although destiny made Sardar Singh as Sardar Khan and turned his younger brother, Harbans Singh to Mohd Naseem Khan in Rawalakot (PoK), it took the Khan brothers nearly sixty years to cross the Line of Control and have glimpse of their departed ♦??Singh ♦?? brothers and cousins now residing at Digiana and Miran Sahib. Despite change of religion under compelling circumstances, the bonds of love among the Khans and Singhs, the blood relations, has not dampened its intensity. Their reunion with the separated dear ones is unimaginable and not less than a dream come true for them.

Greater Kashmir, 22 November 2007

COURT MARTIAL ERRING SOLDIERS, FAROOQ TO DELHI

Former Chief Minister and opposition National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah has urged New Delhi to launch court martial proceedings against the soldiers who have committed human rights abuses in past 18 years of conflict in the state. ♦??If court martial proceeding could be initiated against a Major General for passing comments at a lady Army officer, then why are you silent when it comes to rape and molestation of Kashmiri mothers and sisters? Does that mean they (Kashmiri women) don't count at all? ♦?? Farooq told Greater Kashmir in a chat here Thursday.

Greater Kashmir, 22 November 2007

Hospitals, schools vacated before deadline: Army

Army on Thursday claimed to have vacated all educational institutions and hospital buildings across the Valley, ahead of Defence Minister A K Antony's November 30 deadline. "We've vacated all the schools, hospitals and college buildings much before the deadline," General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen A S Sekhon told reporters on the fringes of a "surrender ceremony" organized by Army's Victor Force here in south Kashmir

Greater Kashmir, 25 November 2007

Tarigami hints at formation of Third Front

Muhammad Yusuf Tarigami the State general secretary of CPI (M) Sunday said his party and the "like-minded" parties would not hesitate to form a Third Front if the present coalition government continues with its "spree of failures." Stating that his party is ready to provide a platform "for the like minded parties", Tarigami said, "We know elections are no substitute to vexed Kashmir problem, but we want to form Third Front where some remedies for mitigating the sufferings of the Kashmiris would be discussed. My appeal to Hurriyat people is to think in the larger context for the benefit of Kashmiris," he added.

Greater Kashmir, 25 November 2007

Hamid Ansari suggests push to 2nd Green Revolution from JK

Vice President Muhammad Hamid Ansari Sunday suggested that the central government start the proposed push to agriculture through a Second Green Revolution from Jammu & Kashmir. Ansari, who was addressing the 4th convocation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology here at SK International Convocation Centre said the adverse impact of low growth in agriculture has implications for the inclusiveness of growth. "There is a need to refocus our efforts on the agriculture sector not only in J&K, but also in the rest of the country and I would venture to say that government of India could start a push into agriculture through second green revolution from the state on a pilot basis," Ansari said.

Daily Excelsior, 26 November 2007

21 days session a mockery: Oppn

Opposition parties have taken a serious exception to a "short duration budget session" with just 21 sittings called by the Government in January describing it as "gross injustice" not only with the legislators but people of the State, whose grievances the MLAs were supposed to highlight in the Legislature. "It seems the Government does not want to listen to the problems faced by people of the State. They do not want the Opposition and other MLAs to raise their voice in the highest forum of Legislature. This is nothing but ridiculous", Leader of Opposition and NC MLA Abdul Rahim Rather said.

Daily Excelsior, 26 November 2007

Ceasefire on borders completes 4 years

The ceasefire along India-Pakistan borders and the Line of Control (LoC) in the State today completed four years with truce holding firmly barring some minor aberrations. For the conflict-weary residents of all border districts of the State, the dawn of November 26, 2003 heralded not only the festivities of Eid-ul-Fitr, but also brought hope and cheers. Booming guns across the borders fell silent as India and Pakistan announced a ceasefire on this day four years ago.

Greater Kashmir, 26 November 2007

New Delhi violated accession: NC

General Secretary of National Conference (NC) Sheikh Nazir Ahmad on Monday accused New Delhi of violating Kashmir's accession with India. Sheikh Nazir while addressing a party convention at Nawah-e-Subah complex here said, "Jammu and Kashmir was having a separate identity and it has been dissolved by India. Our State was having its own Prime Minister, President, Supreme Court and Election Commission but they were dissolved one by one."

Greater Kashmir, 28 November 2007

Azad reviews situation

Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today arrived here from Jammu and reviewed at a high level meeting the situation arising out of the cancellation of Hajj flights from Srinagar and to take stock of availability of essentials including power supply in the backdrop of the prevailing intense cold conditions in the Valley. In view of the weather conditions leading to cancellation of Hajj flights, three so far from here, a suggestion was put forth by Director Airport Authority that the Civil Aviation Ministry be approached for installation of CAT-1 Approach Lighting facility at the Srinagar Airport to allow landing in poor visibility conditions. The Chief Minister was informed that the Director General Civil Aviation had changed the criterion for landing at the Srinagar airport from 1.5 km visibility to 2.2 km. He was told that the change was made at the behest of foreign pilots who were not ready to land at below 2.2 km visibility.

Greater Kashmir, 29 November 2007

Indian Civil Society has double standards on human rights: APDP

The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons Wednesday said the government of India was maintaining a criminal silence over the fate of thousands of men who were subjected to the enforced custodial disappearance by armed forces in the past 18 years. The Indian civil society including human rights activists, writers, Journalists, film-makers have raised their voice against the unconstitutional firing in Nandigram, West Bengal where 35 farmers were killed and more than hundred injured in the police firing, but a criminal silence is being maintained on the disappearances in Kashmir, scores of families of disappeared men, who gathered here in a local park, said.

Daily Excelsior, 29 November 2007

PDP gaining strength in Jammu: Mufti

People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohd Sayeed today said the PDP is fast gaining strength in Jammu region despite being made target of a venomous propaganda from various like minded parties, groups and individuals. "People now judge the politicians on merits. No body can befool them through emotional slogans", he said, adding the people have now become emancipated enough to get carried away by any hawkish rhetoric. Addressing a gathering in Vijaypur today, Mr Sayeed said the PDP is fast emerging as a credible political force across the State by relentlessly striving for political and economic interests of the people in all regions and sub regions of the State.

Daily Excelsior, 29 November 2007

New rank of militants more lethal: CRPF

The new rank of militants in J&K are more lethal, motivated and well qualified, who dare to seek direct contact with security forces, according to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), operating as counter insurgency force in the State. Militants though, fewer in number, are now using new ways and means to sustain there operations not only in the State but throughout India. This was stated today by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) CRPF, NC Nathanael in his presentation during a day long workshop on 'New Formats of Militancy and Violence in the Valley' organized by CRPF, Srinagar Sector.

Daily Excelsior, 29 November 2007

Omar for Truth, Reconciliation Commission

President J&K National Conference and Member Parliament Omar Abdullah has said that to resolve the Kashmir issue a Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be constituted and if necessary it should be headed by someone who is neither of Indian or Pakistani origin. Mr Abdullah was addressing two day Conference on the Kashmir issue held in the House of Common, here. "This Commission should be mandated to look into the problems of Jammu and Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) post 1989", he said, adding "such a Commission can lay the road map for the way forward to resolve the Kashmir issue".