

Daily Excelsior, 1 October 2007

### **Benami transactions to avoid seizure**

Majority of corrupt officers in the State have started transferring the property acquired through unhealthy means on the names of their relatives and even lower rank employees of their Departments, a survey conducted by the State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) has revealed. The new trend came to the notice of SVO officials after they started seizure and attachment of property of Government officers, which was proved as disproportionate to their known sources of income, official sources told the Excelsior. Though the Vigilance Organisation has only surveyed 22 officers, the sources opined that number of such officers and officials could be much more. There could be hundreds of such corrupt officers, who would have adopted this technique to prevent their property from getting seized or attached by the Vigilance Organisation under the provisions of new anti-corruption law approved by the Legislature last year and amended this year...

Daily Excelsior, 1 October 2007

### **Indo-Pak trucks to cross Wagah today**

WAGAH, Sept 30: A new chapter will be added in the history of Indo-Pakistan trade tomorrow, when three trucks loaded with tomatoes cross the Radcliffe Line into Pakistan through this joint border road checkpost. Likewise, three to five trucks loaded with dried fruit would cross into Indian territory from Pakistan. The Indian trucks armed with a customs permit would go up to the Customs Terminal on the Pakistan side of the check post. After offloading the tomatoes, the trucks would again return to India. Similarly, the Pakistani trucks with a valid customs permit would off load the dried fruit at the Indian Customs Terminal before returning to Pakistan. According to official sources here, Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal would flag off the Indian trucks, while Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz is expected to flag off the trucks of his country. He will also inaugurate the new Customs Terminal on the Pakistan side of the checkpost...

Greater Kashmir, 1 October 2007

### **Fear grips Magam police**

Magam, (Handwara), Sept 30: Three days after policemen of this police post in Handwara were thrashed by the soldiers, they are yet to come to terms with life. Fear is palpable as one enters the post and observes the policemen who on Sunday were seen collecting police records and removing broken glasses of windowpanes. Now civilians in the area pose serious question as to what is stored for them in future as they see policemen under severe stress after being beaten to pulp by the soldiers of 33 RR. A policeman told Greater Kashmir on condition of anonymity that they were not expecting such behaviour from army soldiers...

Greater Kashmir, 1 October 2007

### **Editorial : Renewed Militarisation**

De-militarisation had been a favourite topic of almost all political parties in Kashmir for quite sometime. There was a tussle going on between some parties about pros and cons of the proposal which had originally been mooted by President Musharraf. Many variants of the proposal were floated by local parties. The popularity of the proposal was mainly because of the harsh behaviour of troops of both regular army as well as of paramilitary

forces in Kashmir towards the civilian population. Empowered by the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the forces have become a law unto themselves. People have been yearning for some sort of relief from their atrocities which have exceeded all limits. Thus any talk of demilitarisation has become a popular slogan and any political party giving it is bound to gain peoples sympathy. The two recent incidents, one involving the cold blooded shooting of a teenager in Pulwama by paramilitary forces and the other relating to assault by regular troops on a Police Station in Handwara are specific examples of this demonstration of naked and brute force...

Greater Kashmir, 1 October 2007

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Greater Kashmir, 1 October 2007

#### **GOC Kilo Force promises action**

Srinagar:Kilo Force GOC Major General Rajendra Singh Sunday assured that the army personnel found guilty of injuring six police personnel of the Magam police station in Kupwara district would be punished. A defence ministry spokesman said that Maj Gen Singh met injured policemen in the hospital and also visited Magam police station, which was allegedly attacked by the army personnel after police seized army's kerosene oil...

Greater Kashmir, 1 October 2007

#### **Mirwaiz Umar seeks OIC intervention in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Sept 28: Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today sought the intervention of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to resolve the Kashmir issue. We urge the OIC to send its mission to India, Pakistan and Kashmir to asses the ground situation and explore ways for resolving vexed Kashmir issue, Mirwaiz said while addressing a Friday congregation at historic Jamia Masjid here. Mirwaiz thanked OIC for expressing solidarity with people of Kashmir and for reaffirming its support to the right to self-determination of Kashmiris. OIC maintaining that peace cannot prevail in south Asia till Kashmir issue is resolved vindicates Hurriyats stand, he said.

Daily Excelsior, 2 October 2007

### **'Army needs an image makeover'**

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: Taking over the stewardship of the world's second largest Army, General Deepak Kapoor today ruled out any immediate curtailment of Army's role in the fight against terrorism. "Though there is an improvement in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and North East," there cannot be any curtailment of Army's role in combating terrorism keeping in view the geo-political situation vis-a-vis the threat from terrorists, Kapoor said on assumption of office as the 23rd Chief of Army Staff. The new Army Chief said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir did not yet warrant any withdrawal of forces...

Daily Excelsior, 2 October 2007

### **Indian trucks cross Wagah, none came from Pak**

WAGAH, Oct 1: A new chapter was today added in the history of Indo-Pakistan trade, when two trucks loaded with tomatoes crossed the Radcliff Line into Pakistan through this joint Border Road Check Post amidst protests by coolies (porters) who claimed that their livelihood would be affected following the opening of the route for trade. The first truck was flagged off by Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal amidst much fanfare. Later talking to mediapersons the Chief Minister said that the opening of the land route for trade would not only be beneficial for the country but also for Punjab. However, no truck from across the border crossed over into India...

Greater Kashmir, 2 October 2007

### **Protesters manhandle Deputy Speaker**

Srinagar, Oct 1: Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (LA) on Monday had a narrow escape when violent protesters attacked him at Gund Jehangir Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipore district, witnesses said. They said residents of Gund Jehangir and other adjoining areas raising anti-government slogans took to the roads on Monday morning to protest against the water scarcity in the area. Muhammad Akbar Lone Deputy Speaker of the LA and who is also the MLA of the area reached the spot and tried to pacify the protesters, the witnesses said...

Daily Excelsior, 2 October 2007

### **HC stays Govt order on cancellation of JDA shops**

JAMMU, Oct 1: Justice J P Singh of J&K High Court, Jammu wing today stayed the Government order for cancellation of much publicized allotments of Jammu Development Authority's 31 shops/halls at South Block, Bahu Plaza Complex. The Court also issued notices for service within one week to State through Chief Secretary and JDA. The Caveat filed by the JDA has also been discharged with the directions that till further orders, the operation of Government order 1126-GAD of September 22, 2007 shall remain stayed and the possession of the petitioners shall not be disturbed. The cancellation of allotments was challenged in 18 petitions wherein it has been alleged Government has not issued any show cause notice before exercising power under Section 37 of the J&K Development Act, 1970...

Greater Kashmir, 2 October 2007

### **Editorial: WAVE demands fast-track court for Sabrina, Tabinda cases**

Srinagar, Oct 1: An important meeting of the WAVE, Women for Awareness, Vision, and Empowerment was held here today to take stock of the situation regarding the Sabrina and Tabina cases, the spokesperson of WAVE said in a statement. The WAVE at a sit-down protest had demanded, and now reiterated their demand for the formation of a fast-track court for quick delivery of justice, as was done in Rajasthan recently. The member resolved to fight against all forms of violence against women including domestic violence and various social evils like illiteracy, dowry and evils related to marriage ceremonies like waste of time, lavish spending for ostentation and carnival of cuisine, which has made life a hell for the poor women. It resolved to establish a fund for the marriage of economically and social deprive women folk...

Daily Excelsior, 3 October 2007

**Progress on Kashmir after elections: Kasuri**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2: The political crisis faced by embattled President Pervez Musharraf will not impact the Indo-Pak peace process in the long run and the progress achieved so far will not be "wasted" by any new Government in Pakistan, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said. Kasuri also said India and Pakistan will have to settle for a "second best" solution, especially for the Kashmir issue, while dealing with contentious bilateral issues. Kasuri said in an interview that though a lot of work has been done through "back channels" to resolve key issues like Kashmir the "next window of opportunity" in the dialogue would open after Pakistan's elections...

Daily Excelsior, 3 October 2007

**Several vehicles sold to militants: Murtaza Baba turns out to be kingpin**

JAMMU, Oct 2: Murtaza Baba, a militant-cum-criminal of Sopore, Kashmir has turned out to be a prime accused in supplying luxurious cars to militants and other influential persons in the Valley after getting the vehicles lifted from Punjab, Chandigarh and New Delhi. The vehicles were being used by the Kashmiri militants to shift their hide-outs and transport weapons besides triggering car blasts. Investigations carried out by Jammu and Punjab police after first such racket between Punjab and Kashmir based car lifters was unearthed few days back have revealed that Murtaza Baba, a resident of Chanpora, Sopore, was instrumental in getting the cars lifted from major North Indian cities and selling them among his associates in different militant outfits especially Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen...

Daily Excelsior, 3 October 2007

**Army Chief to visit J&K**

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: Days after taking over as the new Army Chief, General Deepak Kapoor will visit Jammu and Kashmir beginning Friday to get a first-hand knowledge of counter-insurgency operations in the militancy-hit state and the situation in the border. Gen Kapoor, who ruled out troop reduction in the State soon after taking over as the 23rd Chief of Army yesterday, would review the situation in the Jammu region as well as the Kashmir valley during his stay in the state, official sources said here. During his visit, he is likely to have meetings with State police officials and other members of Unified Headquarters in which emphasis would be laid on a concerted effort to counter insurgency operations, they said...

Kashmir Times, 3 October 2007

**Magam police post incident: Army apologises to JKP**

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: The army today tendered an apology to the Jammu and Kashmir police over the beating up of its personnel and the ransacking of the police post in Magam-Kupwara last week. Official sources said that Major General Rajinder Singh met the policeman in the post and apologised to them on behalf of the armymen who had assaulted them. The police however said that it was not withdrawing the care and would continue investigations against the Major and 30 other personnel against whom a case was registered on September 26. The policemen were allegedly beaten up mercilessly by troops after the kerosene and petrol meant for army use was seized by the cops following allegations of selling the oil in open market...

Kashmir Times, 3 October 2007

**Kashmir still steeped in secular ethos: Azad**

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Without mentioning his name, chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today reacted to the statement of prominent separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani wherein he had stated that the government was distracting the Kashmiri youth from Islam by imposing other philosophies like Gandhism on them. Azad said that "Islamic books guide us to achieve the world hereafter whereas Gandhian philosophy guides us a great deal in terms of political issues and other worldly affairs."..

Greater Kashmir, 3 October 2007

**Editorial: Gandhispeak**

Gandhi, the father of the Indian nation was truly a great soul who galvanised all Indians in their struggle for freedom. He had been terribly pained by the Holocaust of the partition. In fact, he had seen the only ray of light in Kashmir because of the absence of any communal divide in the valley when the entire sub-continent was burning. It is a pity and an irony of history that the present rulers are mutilating his sincere teaching to suit their own imperialist ends. After having beaten Kashmiris to a pulp, they are being fed on Gandhi Speak. The Gandhian slogan, Ahinsa Parma Dharma, which means non-violence is the highest religion, sounds not only ridiculous but totally out of context in present Kashmir. It is like telling a person to be non-violent after giving him a good thrashing. The aim seems to be to project Kashmiris as peace loving Gandhians and the violence something external here. One should be encouraging them to spread the message of peace and non-violence rather than thrusting the philosophy of Gandhi down the throats of tortured innocents. There is not a single day when Kashmiris are not killed in cold blood disregarding Gandhi's sermons of non-violence...

Daily Excelsior, 4 October 2007

**Security forces have done their job, withdraw them: Mehbooba**

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: Alleging that security forces have constructed concrete structures at tourist sites in violation of Supreme Court orders, People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Ms Mehbooba Mufti said Army had done its job and it was time to withdraw it. "Kashmir is a political issue in which security forces have no role to play," Ms Mufti said, adding troops reduction could pave way for a long lasting solution to the problem in

the sub-continent. A statement issued by the PDP, a partner of the Congress led coalition Government in Jammu and Kashmir, said Ms Mufti had informed Defence Minister A K Antony that security forces have constructed concrete structures in violation of the apex court order banning construction at tourist sites, including Zabarwan, Gulmarg and Sonamarg...

Greater Kashmir, 4 October 2007

### **CM gives Housing to Aijaz**

Srinagar, Oct 3: With government yet to decide on Qazi Muhammad Afzal's resignation as Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday assigned the ministry affairs to Minister of State for Forest, Aijaz Ahmad Khan. An official handout here said Azad has assigned the charge of Housing and Urban Development to Minister of State for Forest Aijaz Ahmad Khan in addition to his own portfolio. The government order says that Khan would look after the government business related to the Housing and Urban Development till further orders...

Greater Kashmir, 4 October 2007

### **Parties kick off by-election campaign in Poonch**

Rajouri, Oct 3: Political parties have kicked off their election campaign for the Haveli assembly segment in border district Poonch which fell vacant due to the recent death of National Conference MLA, G M Jan. Soon after indications that the election commission wants to fill the seat with by-elections likely to be conducted in December, the political parties have geared up their activities among the electorates. Among these parties, the opposition National Conference seems to be more aggressive in its traditional bastion. However, the local leadership of the party focuses more on the credentials and contributions of the local probable candidates instead of the party program...

Greater Kashmir, 4 October 2007

### **India gets Israeli help to quell movement: Geelani**

Srinagar, Oct 3: Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Wednesday said India was getting all help and co-operation from Israeli agencies to strengthen and perpetuate its occupation in Jammu Kashmir. Addressing a Conference on Nazool-e-Quran at Magam in Kupwara district Geelani said some days ago Mossad chief along with a team from Israel visited Kashmir to take a stock of the situation. One more Israeli army team is coming in the current month to work out joint strategy with Indian army to suppress the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir, said Geelani. Geelani cautioned people against these plans and appealed them to continue freedom struggle in an organized way and demonstrate unity in their ranks to scuttle these nefarious plans...

Daily Excelsior, 4 October 2007

### **Mangat denies BJP charges**

JAMMU, Oct 3: State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has urged the Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad to take action against the corrupt ministers of his Government by dismissing them immediately. At a joint press conference here, today, the Party general secretaries Messrs Bali Bhagat and Shamsher Singh Manhas alleged that there are elements in the council of ministers who have indulged in corrupt practices, looted the

public exchequer and purchased the immovable properties in posh localities in Jammu, Delhi and elsewhere worth hundred crores of rupees. They alleged that this Minister owns a well furnished office at Jammu, two duplex flats in the name of his relatives at Gurgaon, one flat at Ansal Plaza, New Delhi, shopping complex at Kirti Nagar New Delhi, three kohtis at Jammu and a hotel at Jammu...

Kashmir Times, 4 October 2007

**Pak says time is right to address Kashmir issue**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 3 : Pakistan and India must seize the opportunity provided by the conducive international and regional environment to address the Kashmir issue, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammed Khan has said. Stressing that both sides will have to demonstrate political will, courage and flexibility, he said, "we are pursuing a solution that is acceptable to India, Pakistan and above all people of Kashmir." "The two countries must now seize the opportunity provided by the conducive international and regional environment to address the problems especially Jammu and Kashmir dispute that is at the heart of conflict and tension in South Asia," he said addressing the UN General Assembly yesterday...

Daily Excelsior, 5 October 2007

**'Situation in J&K has shown improvement'**

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: Noting that the internal security situation in the country remained a "cause for concern", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said there was need to go "far beyond" conventional responses in facing terrorist threats. In his address to the top police brass of the country here, he made a special mention for the incidents of vigilantism and citizens taking law into their own hands, particularly in Bihar. Doing some blunt speaking, Singh shared concern over goondaism, dadagiri, eve-teasing and child abuse and wanted a "hard look" at functioning of police and making them more accountable to ensure a secure environment for the people. "The internal security situation in our country continues to remain a cause for concern for both the Central and State Governments," the Prime Minister said at the four-day conference of Directors and Inspectors General of Police, organised by Intelligence Bureau...

Daily Excelsior, 5 October 2007

**No setback to process of normalcy in J&K: Antony**

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: Terming the fierce gunbattle near the tourist resort of Gulmarg on Wednesday in which nine terrorists were killed as an isolated incident", Defence Minister A K Antony today said there was no setback to the process of return of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. "The situation in the State is showing improvement and the Valley is by and large peaceful", Antony told reporters here on the sidelines of a function. He, however, did not say if the Government proposed to undertake troop withdrawal from the militancy-hit State. Asked whether the Gulmarg incident in which two Majors were also killed belied claims that there had been a drop in infiltration, Antony said compared to past years, there had been definite decline in infiltration...

Kashmir Times, 5 October 2007

**With Muftis return troop cut back on Centre stage**

NEW DELHI, Sep 4: With the Muftis' back from the United States , the chorus of "troops cut" in Jammu and Kashmir is again taking a centre stage in political discourse. Just two days after People's Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti met Defence Minister A K Antony here seeking seeking an immediate pullout of some troops, Governor Lieutenant General S K Sinha on Thursday threw a spanner reiterating that "time was not right for any kind of troop cut." Antony, however, told reporters on the sidelines of a function that he has forwarded a report of the high-level panel headed by the defence secretary regarding "relocation of troops" to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who had constituted it for examining it under PDP's threat to pull out otherwise from the Congress-led coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir...

Greater Kashmir, 5 October 2007

### **Pakistan, PaK traders delegation coming on November 6**

Srinagar, Oct 4: In a significant development that could become a harbinger of Trans-LoC trade, a 12-member high level delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries has received the nod from Government of India for their visit to Kashmir. The delegation comprising of top business persons from Pakistan and Pakistan administered Kashmir shall come through Waga to Kashmir on November 6 and will discuss modalities for initiation of trade across LoC with their counterparts in Srinagar, president Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Mubeen Shah revealed. The KCCI has received a list of members of the delegation. While welcoming the visit of traders, Dr Shah said this hopefully would be the first step towards uplift of trade and commerce in the Valley, which could further be strengthened by opening the tradition links, more particularly the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road for trade in the Valley...

Kashmir Times, 5 October 2007

### **Geelani shifts ire to Azad, snubs him**

Srinagar, Oct 4: Terming chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad's assertions on Gandhi Day in Srinagar as anti-Islamic, the Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani has said that Azad belongs to the same category as that of controversial writers, Salman Rushdie and Tasleema Nasreen. He advised Azad 'to change his name from Ghulam Nabi Azad' to Ghulam Gandhi Bhat. During the Gandhi Jayanti function at SKICC, Srinagar, Azad had said that while Islam secures the hereafter, Gandhian philosophy of truth and non-violence was apt for success in the contemporary world. "Whatever we have learnt from religious books and scholars, helps us is our Aakhirat (hereafter) but to succeed in the contemporary world we need to follow the Gandhian philosophy," Azad had said...

Daily Excelsior, 5 October 2007

### **Large number of militants waiting to infiltrate: Army**

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: Though the security forces dealt a severe blow to the designs of anti-national elements by successfully foiling the attempts of infiltration from across the borders recently yet a large number of trained Pakistani militants have been waiting at launching pads along the Line of Control (LoC) to sneak into Kashmir valley. Disclosing this in a media conference at Handwara today, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Kilo Force Major General Rajinder Singh said that intelligence inputs have revealed that large numbers of militants trained in handling sophisticated weapons, have been waiting

for the opportunities to infiltrate into this side through LoC to create bloodshed in the State...

Daily Excelsior, 6 October 2007

### **Army chief lauds troops counter terrorist campaign**

UDHAMPUR, Oct 5: Chief of Army Staff, General Deepak Kapoor has appreciated the troops for launching affective counter terrorist campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. Gen Kapoor, who arrived here today at the Northern Command headquarters to review general security situation widely lauded the counter terrorist campaign launched by the troops including Rashtriya Rifles in the State. He also commended the excellent counter infiltration operations being undertaken along the Line of Control by the soldiers in the region. The General was briefed about the general security situation by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, Lt Gen H S Panag. He also gave inputs about the present situation along the Line of Control and infiltration status besides other anti-militancy operations and several projects undertaken by the Army under Operation Sadbhavana...

Daily Excelsior, 6 October 2007

### **Majors killed in Valley cremated**

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, Oct 5: "Dont let any militant escape," these were the last words of Major D Raghuraman as he was airlifted from the gunbattle site in north Kashmir after being hit by a bullet in the chest. This was recounted by Gaurav Negi, a Company Officer of the 19-Jat Regiment, as family members and colleagues bid a tearful adieu to the soldier, who was killed in the gunbattle in Baramulla on Wednesday, at the Brar Crematorium here. "A bullet had hit his chest and the worst thing was that it was embedded inside the body. As he was being airlifted, he showed a thumbs up sign to Commanding Officer Harjinder and told the officer not to leave anyone," Negi told reporters...

Greater Kashmir, 6 October 2007

### **Human presence in Siachen detrimental**

Islamabad, Oct 5: Voicing its serious concern over increasing Indian activity on Siachen, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Riaz Muhammad Khan has said that tourism-related activities in the region are extremely harmful for the glacier. The human presence in the area accelerates the melting pace of the glacier and needs to be contained as a portion of the glacier has already been lost, Khan told the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. Khan apprehended that everybody is concerned over the issue of global warming and if the Himalayan glacier started to melt, it would have disastrous implications over both India and Pakistan. He said, From environmental point of view it is very important issue as some lakes have already been formed under the glacier...

Greater Kashmir, 6 October 2007

### **Life disrupted after Lal Chowk sealed off for search operations**

Srinagar, Oct 5: Life in the civil lines, including historical Lal Chowk was affected yet again this afternoon after Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) sealed off the entire area. The CRPF personnel, wielding automatic weapons and wearing bullet proof jackets,

sealed off the area from Court Road crossing to Amira Kadal immediately after Friday prayers were over in the Hamza mosque on the banks of the river Jehlum. Hundreds of devotees, including women and children, besides shopkeepers, were directed to remain within the sealed area. We have orders not to allow anybody to leave the sealed area till the senior officers arrive, a CRPF jawan said. Later, the CRPF personnel allowed the pedestrians, including lawyers of the lower courts, to leave after frisking and checking their identity cards...

Kashmir Times, 6 October 2007

### **Winds of change sweeping through migrant camps**

Purkhoo Migrant Camp (Jammu), Oct 5: Nirmala Devi and Krishan Joo, both octogenarian. Vijay Kumar Pandita, Krishan Kumar and Mohini Bhan all in their mid-fifties. Nisha, Raksha and Sanjay, who fall in the age group of 14-21. They represent three generations living in these camps and hold different perceptions about all issues directly concerning them. It's not that the dissent does not exist among the members of same age group, but at a certain point they at least find one meeting point, which at times becomes difficult to discover between two generations. Almost eighteen years down the line since the migration, the wind of change has swept the residents dwelling in the migrants camps established in three phases here...

Greater Kashmir, 6 October 2007

### **Youth killed in fake encounter**

Srinagar, Oct 5: The State Human Rights Commission today indicted army for killing a civilian in custody and directed the Crime Branch to reopen the case of encounter registered in police station Ganderbal in 1999. In a case filed by a Khatija Begum mother of Muhammad Sultan Bhat of Batwani Ganderbal the Commission described the encounter killing of Muhammad Sultan Bhat of Batwani Ganderbal as fake encounter and directed that FIR 58/1999 registered in police station Ganderbal be reopened under section 364/302 of RPC. Khatija had filed the case in the Commission saying her son Muhammad Sultan Bhat was picked up by troops on September 20, 1999 from his home with the help of government gunman Ghulam Muhammad Kuloo...

Kashmir Times, 6 October 2007

### **BJP alleges bungling in NREGS**

JAMMU, Oct 5: The state unit of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) has alleged large scale bunglings in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar and other districts where works are being executed under this scheme. In a press statement, the BJP state general secretary & former MLA Bali Bhagat said that deserving poor people have not been covered under the benefit of the scheme and instead the rural works earmarked worth crores of rupees under this scheme have been allotted to the "blue-eyed" contractors by Rural Development Department. He alleged that job cards of labourers have been prepared by the department but in many cases those have been kept with the department functionaries themselves to draw fictitious bills and the actual beneficiaries are being paid wages of 4 to 5 days instead of 100 days as is mandatory under this Central sponsored scheme...

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2007

**Slain militants were trained to blow up rail tracks**

SRINAGAR : All nine militants, killed in an encounter in Tangmarg area earlier this week, were foreign fighters trained for large-scale subversive activities and tasked with blowing up railway tracks and army vehicles. According to documents recovered from the site of the fierce gunbattle, in which two Army Majors also lost their lives, the militants were provided with a list of dos and donts, including directions asking them to wash their own clothes and keeping away from locals to protect their identity. The group was tasked to blow up railway tracks in Budgam, Baramulla and Pattan areas of the Valley. It was also assigned to lob grenades on Army vehicles, an Army official said...

Greater Kashmir, 7 October 2007

**New Army boss rules out troop reduction in JK**

Beerwah (Budgam), Oct 6: The new Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Saturday ruled out troop reduction in Kashmir till normalcy returns to the conflict-ridden state. Till the time peace and normalcy returns and people of Valley live as happily as people in other parts of the country are, Army would remain here, General Kapoor told reporters here after carrying aerial survey of Tangmarg where nine militants and two Majors were killed in a 36-hour gunbattle on Wednesday. Gen Kapoor said that there has been a rise in violence in the state and the killing of militants at Tangmarg and at LoC is a proof of it. Whenever semblance of peace returns in the Valley, militants infiltrate to increase violence. Infiltration is still continuing, he said...

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2007

**23 militants, 7 soldiers die around Army chief's visit**

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Running parallel to Gen Deepak Kapoor's maiden visit to Jammu & Kashmir as Chief of Army Staff, six more infiltrating militants and two soldiers have died today in a fierce gunbattle in Kupwara district where security forces had killed three militants of the same group while losing one soldier yesterday. With today's gunbattles between militants and security forces in Kupwara, Rafiabad (Baramulla) and Chitragam (Shopian), as many as 23 militants and 7 soldiers have got killed at seven places in Kashmir valley in the last five days...

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2007

**Purpose of coalition subverted: Qazi writes to Azad, insists his resignation be accepted**

JAMMU, Oct 6: Within a couple of days of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad assigning the charge of Housing and Urban Development Departments, held so far by PDP leader Qazi Mohd Afzal to Minister of State Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Mr Afzal today shot off a letter to Mr Azad urging him to formally accept his resignation without any further delay. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister from his M-4-Tulsibagh, Srinagar residence, Qazi Afzal, who was divested of Forest portfolio by Mr Azad on September 2 followed by the Minister's resignation which was not accepted, pointed out that many actions taken by the Chief Minister have again brought into focus the reasons for his stepping down from the Cabinet...

Greater Kashmir, 7 October 2007

**Bilal Siddiqui released**

Srinagar, Oct 6: Bilal Siddiqui, one of the pioneers of the freedom struggle, was Saturday released after spending more than 13 years in different Indian jails. Bilal, a founder member of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, was arrested in November 1996 from New Delhi and sentenced to 10-year imprisonment in Tihar jail. In June 2002 he was sent to Central Jail Srinagar under the provisions of public safety Act (PSA). He was later sent to Kot Balwal jail in Jammu. Bilal was one among the first batch of boys that went across the LoC to receive arms training in Pakistan administered Kashmir in mid eighties. Bilal's release was due last year, but his release was delayed as he was kept in various jails across the city...

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2007

**Many CBMs taken by coalition: Mehbooba**

Srinagar, Oct 6: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Ms Mehbooba Mufti today said the alliance between Congress and PDP is not mere power sharing agreement but in the backdrop of sensitive situation in Kashmir it was formulated with a broader vision to solicit the support at national level to solve the Kashmir problem. Ms Mufti, while presiding over a meeting of district committees (Ganderbal, Kupwara and Srinagar), observed that a solution to Kashmir problem is impossible unless there is support, cooperation and goodwill at the national level...

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2007

**Editorial: J&K: Redefining the region**

The Union Government, for long has a defensive approach in defining the J&K region. The official rhetoric emphasizes that the entire J&K, including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit and Baltistan is a part of India and always refers to the Parliamentary resolution in 1993. However in reality, the Indian official policy always stopped at the LoC. Unfortunately, it never raised its voice on what was happening across the LoC, especially in Muzaffarabad and Gilgit. There is a need to redefine the J&K region, for the following reasons...

Daily Excelsior, 8 October 2007

**J&K SFC's ex-MD quizzed by FBI in dual passport case**

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: A team of the FBI visited Jammu and Kashmir and questioned the former top official of the State Forest Corporation (SFC), who was arrested for allegedly concealing his American citizenship. Aizaz Ahmed, who is at present out on a conditional bail, was quizzed by the FBI officials recently in presence of State police as to how he had managed the US passport, official sources said. His questioning included his address in the United States, his stay, information about his friends and relatives and whether he had undertaken any job there, the sources said...

Daily Excelsior, 8 October 2007

**3 SPOs detained as AK found missing**

JAMMU, Oct 7: Three Special Police Officers (SPOs) have been detained by police after an AK-47 rifles with magazines and a mobile telephone went missing from their rented

room near Mendhar police station in Poonch district last night. In another incident in Surankote tehsil of Poonch, three youths were kidnapped by the militants during early morning prayers from outside a religious place but they were rescued by a big group of civilians few hours later. Official sources told the Excelsior that three SPOs Nahid Mirza, Zakir Hussain and Mohd Safeer, posted in Mendhar police station, had been putting up jointly in a rented room in the house of Makhan Din, few yards away from Mendhar police station...

Daily Excelsior, 8 October 2007

### **India to buy Fennec copters for use in Siachen Glacier**

PARIS, Oct 7: India will soon sign a deal with Europe's aerospace and defence major EADS for purchase of 197 Fennec helicopters for use of Army, particularly in high altitude regions like Siachen. An agreement for supply of the AS 550 Fennec helicopters for Indian Navy may follow as the latter has expressed interest in acquiring these, officials of the company said here. "We are in final phase of having a deal to supply 197 (Fennec) light helicopters for the Indian Army. The contract is expected to be signed by the end of the year," EADS Senior Vice President for South Asia, Allain Letanoux, told a group of Indian journalists here. The deal will involve transfer of technology, he said...

Kashmir Times, 8 October 2007

### **APHC (A) supporters celebrates Musharraf's victory**

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: The supporters of Hurriyat Conference (A) today celebrated the victory of Gen Pervez Musharraf in Pakistani presidential polls by bursting crackers and raising pro-Pakistan slogans. Initially, the celebrations caused chaos and panic among the shoppers in Srinagar as they feared it was a "fidayeen attack" and ran for safety. At around 3.45 pm, when people in large numbers were busy in shopping in Srinagar, a group of boys led by supporters of Huriyat Conference (A) with crackers and green flags near Ghanta-Ghar in the heart of city centre. The group began to burst crackers and the sound of its bursting created panic and chaos among the people busy in shopping. They mistook the bursting of crackers as gun-shots and began running for safety. The non locals, who were also enjoying shopping from the road side vendors in Lal Chowk, too began to run for safety. The vehicular traffic on the Regal Chowk-Ghanta Ghar road came to a halt with people taking the bursting of crackers as fidayeen attack...

Kashmir Times, 8 October 2007

### **Crackdown in a Bandipora village for last 5 days**

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: When army and police claims to be strengthening people friendly relations, a village in Bandipora is under crackdown for last five days. Police confirmed the crackdown saying it is being jointly carried out by army and cops on "specific information regarding presence of militants." According to police sources a joint column of 23 Punjab regiment and Special Operation Group (SOG) of Kashmir police cordoned off the lone Mohalla and some other areas in Chattibanday on October 3. Police sources said that they have not yet arrested any militants, but the people are being asked to assemble for parade...

Greater Kashmir, 8 October 2007

### **Earthquake survivors in PaK remain skeptical even after two years**

Muzaffarabad, Oct 7: Two senior government officials here on Sunday painted a rosy picture of the earthquake affected areas but many survivors remained sceptical of the official claims in the wake of held-up reconstruction and rehabilitation process. The officials, who included Pakistan administered Kashmir's chief secretary Javed Majid and State Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (Serra) director general Dr Asif Ali Shah, spoke to media persons on the eve of second anniversary of Oct 2005 earthquake...

Daily Excelsior, 9 October 2007

### **Srinagar Sexplosion takes Fresh Toll**

SRINAGAR, Oct 8: In its fresh tremors on exactly the second anniversary of the devastating earthquake in 2005, the infamous Srinagar sexplosion today rocked the country when a Division Bench (DB) of Jammu & Kashmir High Court pulled up Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for its lax investigation and issued directions asking the agency to interrogate a group of highly influential persons that had been left out for unknown reasons. CBI has been directed to proceed against a sitting Cabinet Minister, two MLAs and ex-Ministers of the coalition Government, former Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd, an officer of the rank of Director General of Police, another officer of the rank of DIG besides two SSPs and place all records and evidences against six of them before Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Srinagar in the next six weeks...

Daily Excelsior, 9 October 2007

### **UJC announces 3 day truce**

SRINAGAR, Oct 8: The United Jihad Council, an amalgam of 13 Pakistan-based militant groups, today announced its operations will remain suspended in the State for three days beginning October 12 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The ceasefire was announced by a spokesman of the amalgam to local news agencies here after a meeting chaired by UJC chairman Syed Salahuddin, who also heads the Hizbul Mujahideen. All the militant leaders and cadres are hereby directed to follow the ceasefire strictly during the three days, the spokesman said. Justifying the truce, the spokesman said security forces carry out fake encounters and harass people on one pretext or the other even during auspicious occasions like Eid...

Daily Excelsior, 9 October 2007

### **Agreement on border crossers likely**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 8: Pakistan today hoped that an agreement on the repatriation of inadvertent border-crossers will be signed with India when the officials of the two countries meet to discuss conventional Confidence-Building Measures later this month. The expert-level talks on conventional CBMs, part of the composite dialogue process between the two countries, will be held in New Delhi on October 18, to be followed by a review meeting on nuclear CBMs the next day. "During the talks, the two sides will review the implementation of CBMs that have already been agreed upon and discuss new proposals, if there are any," Foreign Office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam told a weekly news briefing here. Aslam said a proposal for the immediate repatriation of persons from both countries who inadvertently crossed the frontier and another on addressing

"incidents at sea" would be taken up during the talks on conventional CBMs...

Kashmir Times, 9 October 2007

**SC orders shifting of arrested Pak nationals back to J&K**

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: The Supreme Court on Monday ordered shifting back to Jammu and Kashmir all Pakistani nationals nabbed in the state but lodged in the Indian jails in other states. It also ordered completion of their trials within nine months. The order came on the pleading by lawyer Bhim Singh on how the state government has been deliberately violating Section 167 of crPC (criminal procedure code) requiring production of every undertrial before the court at least once in 14 days. He argued that those moved in jails outside the state cannot have access to the concerned trial court and thus it amounted to illegal detention that shatters the very concept of personal liberty and rule of law...

Greater Kashmir, 9 October 2007

**Review committee recommends release of 15 persons out of 277**

Srinagar, Oct 8: A joint review committee has recommended to Jammu and Kashmir government for the release of 15 detainees on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, an official spokesman said. He said the joint review committee constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir government for scrutiny of the cases of Public Safety Act (PSA) detainees met here Monday to review the cases of 277 persons under detention for their involvement in militancy related activities in various jails of the state...

Greater Kashmir, 9 October 2007

**Army snatches land and sleep of Manasbal residents**

Manasbal, Oct 8: The modern warfare airport constructed by Army in Sumbal area of Bandipore district in north Kashmir is giving sleepless nights to the locals who were up in arms against the project from the day one. According to locals, the airport which has come up on the banks of picturesque Manasbal lake has made their lives hellish. The aerial exercises going on since inauguration of the airport has made our lives a hell. Continuous noise and deafening sounds of Army helicopters participating in aerial exercises is giving us sleepless nights, they told Greater Kashmir. We approached many ministers since Army started acquiring land here. But our pleas fell on deaf ears, they added...

Kashmir Times, 9 October 2007

**Editorial: No to troops withdrawal: Gandhi on their lips, but guns on their hips**

India's new Army Chief, Gen. Deepak Kapoor, as expected, paid a visit to the disturbed state of Jammu and Kashmir within a week of assuming the new office. Unfortunately, however, though it was the first visit by the new COAS there was nothing new about his visit. He came and saw, but repeated the old slogan that no troop pull out was possible. Far from conceding the demand for demilitarisation he has ruled out even any cut in the strength of troops in the valley. Only recently the people were told by the Union and state authorities that the situation was better and every one expected that we might soon hear some troop pull-out in the coming days. But, the Army Chief has disappointed us with his strange argument that whenever there is peace in the valley for some time violence returns again...

Daily Excelsior, 10 October 2007

**With 5 Ministers under cloud, Manju may lead CBI to bigger fish**

SRINAGAR, Oct 9: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has begun preparations to conduct phase two of investigation into the infamous Srinagar sex scam in the wake of directions from a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir High Court on Monday. With as many as five Ministers of the coalition Government having been already named by victims and witnesses---and finally by the court---trouble is in the making for more influential political entities, known for their liaison with a woman Councillor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). The councillor, who has adopted Manju as her nickname, lives in and represents the locality where CBI has established a special base for investigation of three serious matters of sexual exploitation and trafficking...

Daily Excelsior, 10 October 2007

**Make border accessible to showcase development: Panel**

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: A high-level committee constituted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has suggested change in the country's border management, making the international boundary "accessible to the people". The task force on Border Area Development Programme (BADP) has recommended that in the context of India emerging as an economic power and the necessity of vigorous trade and transit, the border should "showcase" the country's development and "appearance of entry points must conform to India's status as an emerging economy". The panel, headed by Planning Commission member B N Yugandhar, said liberalisation of economy has changed the perspective in which border areas are perceived. "The Kargil War, subsequent confidence building measures, and the extensive development on the other side of the borders of the country have led to a reversal in the strategic policy and planning on border management," the report said...

Kashmir Times, 10 October 2007

**People in valley welcome UJC ceasefire announcement**

SRINAGAR, Oct 9: The people of Kashmir valley have welcomed the three-day ceasefire announcement by United Jihad Council (UJC) chairman, Syed Salah-u-Din, in view of the Eid-ul-fitr celebrations. The people have urged the central government to respond positively to the gesture. Political analyst, Prof, Noor Ahmad Baba, who teaches political science in Kashmir University, termed the ceasefire as "goodwill gesture" in view of Eid celebrations. Now India should positively response to the offer to ensure a bilateral ceasefire in the state. The ceasefire can help build a more conducive atmosphere for talks between India and Pakistan...

Greater Kashmir, 10 October 2007

**Army, Govt in a fix**

Srinagar, Oct 9: The United Jihad Councils 3-day ceasefire announcement in view of Eid-ul-Fitr has put the Army and the state government in a tight spot with both saying that the ball is in others court. Army said on Tuesday that its the civilian administration that has to respond to the UJC's announcement and armed forces would abide by the governments decision. Army spokesman told Greater Kashmir that the Army takes orders from the

government and its the government that can take a decision about the ceasefire. But the state government said the decision on ceasefire was Army's prerogative. Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Taj Mohiudin who is also a leader of Congress, the state's ruling party, said: The decision about reciprocating the announcement of ceasefire depends upon the armed forces....

Kashmir Times, 10 October 2007

**Battle hots up between Hurriyat faction: Eid prayers at Eidgah: Who will lead?**

SRINAGAR, Oct 9: Is Eidgah going to be venue for unity or disunity for the two Hurriyat factions on Eid? Both factions of Hurriyat Conference have asked their supporters to offer the Eid prayers in large numbers in Eidgah, but who will lead the Eid prayers has become the prestige issue in both factions. Taking the initiative, Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani was the first to call on people to offer Eid prayers at Eidgah. The Eid prayers have not been offered in the Eidgah since past 20 years. Geelani decided to start a new chapter by offering the Eid prayers there...

Greater Kashmir, 10 October 2007

**Major fire in Safa Kadal**

Srinagar, Oct 9: As the residents of Nalbandpora Safakadal were preparing to visit masjids for Shab-e-Qadr, a major fire broke out on Tuesday evening that gutted at least 20 houses and in flames was property worth crores. Officials said that no one was killed in the incident but residents sustained minor injuries in the major fire that brought thousands to streets looking for their friends and relatives engulfed in the fire. The fire broke out at around 8 pm and spread to other houses in Nalbandpora area of Safakadal. The fire services officials said they received the call from residents at around 8.15 pm and about 11 fire tenders from seven fire stations were pressed into service to control the fire

The Indian express, 10 October 2007

**EDITORIAL: Courting shame**

Nobody will be spared, said the inspector general of police, Kashmir Zone. Nobody will be spared, intoned the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. But a year and a half after this newspaper broke the story of Srinagar's sex abuse scandal, several powerful men in the highest echelons of government, administration, and security forces implicated in it have been spared, or worse, protected by the J&K government. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has not minced its words of reprimand by terming this a mix of humiliation, torture and treachery. The court was understandably agitated, considering that many of the women drawn into the sex racket, often by extremely underhand means, were mere adolescents; considering, too, that those who patronised it were people meant to protect the citizen and ensure the functioning of the law...

Daily Excelsior, 11 October 2007

**Govt ascertaining Chinese incursions: Centre rules out ceasefire in J&K**

NEW DELHI, Oct 10: The Centre today ruled out a ceasefire in operations against militants in Jammu and Kashmir and said a peaceful atmosphere prevailed in the border state. "There is no question of ceasefire," Defence Minister A K Antony said on the

sidelines of International Flight Safety Conference here. "We are all for peace. There is peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The violence level has come down sharply. So where is the question of ceasefire," Antony said. The minister was responding to questions by newsmen whether the Centre would order ceasefire against militants in response to a three-day truce announced by the United Jihad Council (UJC), an umbrella organisation of the militant groups based in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Asked about reports of Chinese troop incursions into Bhutan, Antony said "we are ascertaining the facts"...

Daily Excelsior, 11 October 2007

**PDF workers greet Minister with anti-Mufti slogans**

SRINAGAR, Oct 10: A day after former Minister Ghulam Hassan Khan challenged his suspension in the party and warned the PDP leadership of 'dire consequences', Cabinet Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yasin today alleged that none other a partner of the coalition Government was expeditiously instrumental behind framing him in the infamous Srinagar sex scandal. Claiming to be "innocent", Chairman of the PDF said that he was being punished for his strong resistance to expansion of wine shops in Kashmir valley. On his return from Saudi Arabia, Minister of Transport Hakeem Yasin was greeted by high spirited crowds of his followers at Srinagar Airport with loud slogans against PDP and its patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed....

Greater Kashmir, 11 October 2007

**Protests against rape of minor in Handwara**

Handwara, Oct 10: Massive protests rocked Handwara for the second consecutive day Wednesday against the rape and murder of eight-year-old Gulshana Akhtar. The protestors marched from the Pathri Sangdan, the victim's residence to Kralpora police station. Shouting slogans they demanded that the culprits be arrested and punished. The protesters also blocked the Chowkibal-Kupwara road for nearly three hours. They held a sit-in out side Kralpora police station...

Daily Excelsior, 11 October 2007

**Ramsetu Raksha Manch takes out procession**

JAMMU, Oct 10: To lodge its protest against the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government's move to demolish the Ram Setu at Rameshwaram, a massive procession was taken out here, this afternoon by the Rameshwaram Ramsetu Raksha Manch. The procession, which started from Mubarak Mandi after passing through Chowk Chabutra, Jain Bazaar, Link Road, Purani Mandi, City Chowk, Raghunath Bazar culminated at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Chowk. The processionists led by Mahant Ramsarup Dass, Swami Danish Bharti and Mahant Rameshwar Dass were raising slogans in support of their demands and against the UPA Government's move. With banners in their hands, a large number of Ram sevaks including a sizeable number of Sadhus, men and women joined the procession...

Kashmir Times, 11 October 2007

**Editorial: Theft of explosives: Timid response from home ministry and states**

What had been for long discussed in whispers has suddenly acquired the voice of a loud bang. For the last many years informed people were heard complaining that explosives

and their accessories in various forms, like detonators, detonating fuses, gelatines, pentilite boosters, detonating fuses, safety fuses, cartridges etc., from the government-owned ordnance factories and stores, were finding their way out into the hands of Naxalites and militants operating in the bloody north-east and north-west. As with many things else people took little notice of what was believed to be a minor leakage that could be well-ignored. But, serious investigations have led to a highly disturbing explosion of truth. has been exposed that only in the last two years, 2004-06, the scale of so-called leakage into the black market was simply staggering...

Greater Kashmir, 11 October 2007

### **Musharraf win: Separatists have separate views**

Srinagar, Oct 10: The unofficial announcement of big margin win by General Pervez Musharraf in presidential polls in Pakistan has evoked mixed response from the separatist camp with Syed Ali Geelani accusing Musharraf of deviating from his traditional stand on Kashmir while Mirwaiz Umar Farooq hailing the re-election saying he (Musharraf) wants resolution of Kashmir issue irrespective of whatever the Pakistan's interest is. Responding to the re-election of Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, Hurriyat (G) chairman Syed Ali Geelani told Greater Kashmir: If people of Pakistan are protesting against the re-election of Musharraf, how can we welcome it...

Daily Excelsior, 12 October 2007

### **Geelani-led faction not to offer Eid at Eidgah**

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: The chairman of hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani today withdrew his call for offering Eid prayers at Eidgah ground here as he wanted to avoid a "possible clash" with the moderate faction which too had called on to offer prayers at the site. "We have unanimously decided not to offer Eid prayers at Eidgah to avert possible clash among people and with rival faction headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq," Geelani said after a meeting of the Majlis-e-Shoura (advisory board) of the hardline separatist. Earlier on Monday, Geelani had said he would lead the prayers and hours later, Mirwaiz's Awami Action Committee (AAC) declared they too would offer Eid prayers at Eidgah on Eid day...

Daily Excelsior, 12 October 2007

### **21 CPOs adjusted, transferred**

JAMMU, Oct 11: Director General of Police Kuldeep Khoda today ordered adjustments and transfers of 21 Chief Prosecuting Officers (CPOs) with immediate effect. Pawan Kumar Khajuria has been adjusted as CPO Courts Jammu vice D K Hitashi. Khalid Muzafar Jan posted as CPO Crime Kashmir, Inderjeet Lal as CPO DPO Kathua, Laeeq Ahmad Dar as CPO Traffic Hqrs vice Mufti Javid. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat has been adjusted as CPO PHQ vice Javid Kirmani, Sunita Vishukarma as CPO Crime and Railways Hqrs, Qazi Abdul Qayoom as CPO Pulwama vice Mohd Ashraf Pandit, Mohd Ashraf Bakshi has been posted as CPO SKPA Udhampur against clear vacancy...

Greater Kashmir, 12 October 2007

### **Kashmiri leaders hail UJC truce offer**

Islamabad: Hailing the United Jihad Council's 3-days ceasefire call, the Kashmiri leaders

based in Pakistan urged the government of India to reciprocate the truce offer positively so that a congenial atmosphere could be created to settle Kashmir dispute amicably in line with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people. The convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (M) Pakistan Chapter, Syed Yousuf Naseem while terming the ceasefire call as a wise and appropriate decision said that to build up trust on both sides India should take the call seriously and declare permanent ceasefire in the state so that the efforts aimed at finding out a peaceful solution to the lingering dispute could be strengthened further...

Kashmir Times, 12 October 2007

**Rural Development in Poonch, Rajouri: BJP seeks White Paper on money spent**

JAMMU, Oct 11: The state unit of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) today demanded that the government come out with a White Paper containing details of funds received and spent under Rural Development (RD) schemes in Rajouri and Poonch districts. Addressing media persons after a 3-day tour of these twin border districts here today, the state president of BJP Ashok Khajuria said "The BJP would like the state government to come out with a white paper containing details of money received for these areas under RD schemes and the amount spent by the concerned authorities in these areas". He said that the white paper will establish which authorities and agencies have misused funds for personal gains and not done anything for the development of these areas...

Daily Excelsior, 12 October 2007

**Anti Sabotage Squads in place at Katra, Bhawan**

JAMMU, Oct 11: A massive nine day long religious-cum-cultural activity unfolds tomorrow at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, located at 5219 feet from sea level and Katra, the holy town-cum-base camp of the shrine to mark Navratra festival during which Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) was expecting at least 3 lakh pilgrims. In view of heightened threat perception to widely revered shrine of the country which has also been revealed in Union Health Ministry's report, the SMVDSB, Katra police and CRPF have for the first time deployed Anti Sabotage Squads and equipped all police posts, pickets, naka points and Shrine Board offices with BSNL's wireless system to sound any emergency...

Greater Kashmir, 12 October 2007

**Probe deferred till after Eid: Sex abuse case**

Srinagar, Oct 11: The eight-member Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team that was expected to arrive here on Thursday to re-investigate the sexual exploitation case of Kashmiri girls on the directions of High Court has deferred its arrival by a few days due to Eid, sources told Greater Kashmir. Now the team headed by SSP CBI, R S Dhanker, will arrive shortly after the Eid. The CBI legal experts are studying the case and initially they were thinking for getting stay on the High Court order. However, after seeing the judgment which has slight point of difference, they have decided to wait till the final judgment comes, they said. Legal experts here told GK that keeping in view the slight difference in the directions of High Court, it will be entirely for the two judges either to settle the point of difference in the judgment or else refer it to Chief Justice who would refer the matter to a third judge...

Daily Excelsior, 13 October 2007

**Boulevard fidayeen toll ends at 2 ultras**

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: Lashkar-e-Toiba's suicide strike on a CRPF formation on Boulevard in Dal Lake area has ended with the death of two Pakistani cadres of the organisation. CRPF spokesman Prabhakar Tripathi said that firing had subsided after one militant got killed at Hotel Boulevard, headquarters of CRPF 144 Bn late last evening. He said that when the paramilitaries were checking the premises in search of another militant, he established his presence while opening fire in the early morning today. He too was killed in quick retaliation. Tripathi claimed that two constables and one safai karamchari sustained injuries. He asserted that CRPF did not suffer any fatal casualty and all the three injured were stable at hospital...

Greater Kashmir, 13 October 2007

**Geelani always opposed unity**

Srinagar, Oct 12: Day after Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Geelani accused Awami Action Committee (AAC) of helping India's cause and withdrew his decision to offer Eid Namaz at Eidgah, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq shot back saying Geelani had always opposed unity moves. We wanted to offer Eid prayers at Eidgah for the sake of unity and had no intention of hurting anybody. My passionate appeal to Geelani sahib is to come to Eidgah and offer Eid prayers, Mirwaiz said. Eidgah is the property of the Kashmiri nation and it belongs to all of us. We have never tried to occupy it (Eidgah) nor have we ever said that we inherit it, Mirwaiz said...

Kashmir Times, 13 October 2007

**UJC's unilateral ceasefire comes into force**

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: The three-day unilateral ceasefire announced by United Jihad Council came into force this morning. Till this forenoon, no militancy related incident was reported from anywhere in Kashmir. On October 8, UJC chairman, Syed Salah-ud-Din announced a three-day unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Idd-ul-Fitr. He had announced unilateral ceasefire on October 12, 13 and 14 to give people a chance to celebrate the festival without any fear of militant violence. The UJC chairman said that all the militant groups operating in Kashmir will respect the unilateral ceasefire and will not carry out attacks on forces and police during the ceasefire days on October 12, 13 and 14...

Daily Excelsior, 13 October 2007

**Top ultras moved to Kot Bhalwal jail**

JAMMU, Oct 12: Sixteen top militants of different outfits were last night moved to high security Kot Bhalwal jail from Bhadarwah jail, which was formally shut down yesterday as a part of a decision taken at a high level. Apart from the militants, nine hardened criminals were also lodged in the same jail. Forty three other detainees were transported to District Jail, Udhampur. They include six women besides one infant. The militants were shifted from Bhadarwah to Kot Bhalwal jail last night amidst tight security arrangements. Sixteen top militants and nine criminals, all under trial, were brought from Bhadarwah to Kot Bhalwal yesterday in three vehicles accompanied by four escort

vehicles...

Kashmir Times, 13 October 2007

**'Kashmir channel unleashing, cultural invasion'**

JAMMU, Oct 12: Alleging an "cultural invasion" unleashed on Dogras and Gujjars- the non-Kashmiri speaking communities of the state by the Kashir Channel of Doordarshan, Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation have urged the Prime Minister and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India to immediately stop this "cultural aggression" against Dogras and Gujjars. In a joint press conference, Professor Lalit Magotra, the president Dogri Sanstha and Dr. Javaid Rahi, national secretary of Tribal Foundation alleged that Kashir Channel is in no way the representative Channel of all communities and tribes of state...

Daily Excelsior, 14 October 2007

**Top Lashkar commander killed**

SRINAGAR, Oct 13: A top commander of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) was killed by the security forces during a gun-battle in the Kashmir valley where two Over Ground Workers (OGWs) were arrested and arms and ammunition recovered. Superintendent of Police (SP), Handwara, Dr Haseeb Mughal said the police and troops of 30 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) launched cordon and search operation in general area of Shatagund Payeen in Handwara following specific information. During the operation, he said the militants fired at the security forces with automatic weapons...

Daily Excelsior, 14 October 2007

**27 Telecom DySPs transferred**

SRINAGAR, Oct 13: Director General of Police (DGP) Kuldeep Khoda ordered transfers and postings of 27 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) Telecommunication. Bashir Ahmad has been posted as DySP Telecom Kulgam against clear vacancy. Farooq Ahmad Hakak has been posted as DySP Telecom PCR Srinagar vice Mohammad Shafi. Mohammad Saleem has been posted as DySP Telecom Kishtwar against clear vacancy. Showkat Ali has been posted as DySP Telecom Kupwara against clear vacancy. Mohammad Altaf Tawana has been posted as DySP Telecom District Ramban against clear vacancy...

Kashmir Times, 14 October 2007

**Militants respect truce call**

SRINAGAR, Oct 13: Despite continuation of anti-militancy operations by security forces, the militant groups operating in Kashmir are respecting the three day truce announced by United Jihad Council (UJC) and have refrained from carrying out any attack on security personnel across the Valley. Since yesterday morning, the militants have 'completely' halted their activities. The militants, according to security agencies, have not fired a single bullet or grenade towards the security personnel across the Valley. "There has been a complete peace in the Valley as far as militant attacks are concerned. No militant attack has been reported from anywhere in the Valley", a top police officer said...

Greater Kashmir, 14 October 2007

**Charar Khanqah to open for prayers after 12 years today**

Charar-i-Sharief, Oct 13: For the residents of Charar Eid today would be an occasion to rejoice doubly over, as their long wait will end today and they would offer prayers in the reconstructed grand mosque, Khanqah, twelve years after it got gutted in fire. Nearly 30,000 people from Charar-i-Sharief and surrounding villages are expected to offer Eid prayers here. The Khanqah got gutted in May 1995 in a fire allegedly triggered during encounter between army and the militants, after two-month long siege of the town. The whole town and the Shrine of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) were also gutted down in the encounter. Residents of this town say this will be the real Eid for them..

Daily Excelsior, 14 October 2007

**Chakkan-Da-Bagh opened for one hour: Indo-Pak troops exchange sweets**

POONCH, Oct 13: Chakkan-Da-Bagh on Line of Control (LoC) in this border district was opened this morning as Army officers of India and Pakistan exchange sweets and dry fruits on the eve of Eid festival. Chakkan-Da-Bagh is opened every fortnight on Monday to facilitate movement of the civilians from divided parts of the State to meet their family members, relatives and friends on a permit of 28 days. Col J P Dutta, CO from Poonch represented the Indian troops while Col Zia, Commanding Officer (CO) of 35 PoK led the Pakistan army team. Troops of both the countries, which used to exchange bullets frequently before the cease-fire came into force between the two countries on LoC and international boundary, today exchanged boxes of sweets and dry fruits besides had a normal discussion for about one hour from 10.10 am today...

Greater Kashmir, 14 October 2007

**Hurriyat condemns Geelani's house arrest**

Srinagar, Oct 13: Hurriyat Conference (G) on Saturday condemned the house arrest of its chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani. In a statement on Saturday, the Hurriyat spokesman Ayaz Akbar said, It has exposed the people implementing the nefarious designs of government and its agencies. Ayaz said, Ironically, government is extending all help to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to facilitate Eid prayers led by him at Eidgah. Now people know who is implementing the evil designs of government and its agencies. They stand exposed. From last so many years Geelani wanted to offer prayers at Eidgah on Eid along with other Muslims. By putting Geelani under house arrest, the so-called government is interfering into religious affairs of Muslims. However, the arrest seems to have direct bearing on the public address on Mirwaiz in Jamia Masjid, the statement said...

Kashmir Times, 15 October 2007

**Azad celebrates Eid with quake victims at Tangdhar, Teetwal**

TANGDHAR, Oct 14 : Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr with the distressed people here who still have not overcome the trauma of the fateful morning of October 8, 2005. The earthquake had left behind trails of devastation, consuming over 80,000 lives and levelling habitations on both sides of the Line of Control. Azad flew in here this morning, second time since he assumed office, to offer Eid prayers and be on the auspicious occasion with the victims of the calamity in this border area. About six thousand people had congregated to offer Eid prayers at the

famous Jama Masjid where the celebrated 14th century Muslim preacher from Central Asia, Mir Syed Ali Hamdani, popularly known as Shah-e-Hamdan, had meditated and preached Islam during his stay in Kashmir...

Daily Excelsior, 15 October 2007

**Farooq, Mufti pray at Hazratbal: One lakh offer prayers at Eidgah after 20 years**

SRINAGAR, Oct 14: Eid was today celebrated across Kashmir region with over one lakh people offering Eid prayers at the famous Eidgah after a gap of about 20 years. Nearly one lakh people offered prayers at Eidgah after a gap of 20 years, official sources said. The issue of offering prayers was surrounded by controversy as both factions of Hurriyat Conference were at loggerheads over the issue. Hurriyat hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani on September 27, had announced his plans to offer prayers at Eidgah but later cancelled it after Awami Action Committee (AAC) of Hurriyat's moderate faction led-by Mirwaiz joined the fray, saying prayers could be held as the weather had improved over the past few years at the time of Eid...

Daily Excelsior, 15 October 2007

**Subedar killed, 2 jawans hurt: 3 top LeT ultras captured in Kishtwar**

JAMMU, Oct 14: In a major success, police and security forces today captured alive three hardcore militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) from upper reaches of Pattimal in Kishtwar district and recovered a large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives from their possession. This is for the first time that three hardcore LeT militants have been apprehended by police and Army in a single operation in Kishtwar district, that too without suffering any casualty. DIG Doda range Farooq Khan told the Excelsior that police and Army launched a search operation in Pattimal this afternoon after developing a specific input about the movement of three Lashkar militants, who had been operating in Dachan, Pattimal and Palmar areas for last more than three years...

Daily Excelsior, 15 October 2007

**J&K to get 2 Cyber crime police stations**

JAMMU, Oct 14: With a sharp rise in the incidents of cyber crime in J&K, the Police Department is reported to have decided to set up two police stations one each in Jammu and Srinagar to begin with to deal exclusively with cyber crimes. The police stations, which have been approved by the Police Headquarters and were not awaiting a formal nod from the Government, will be supervised by Crime and Railways wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police, official sources said. Necessity of setting up police stations to deal with cyber crimes was felt by the Police Department due to a sudden increase in cyber related crime incidents all over the State especially in the two capital cities, they said...

Kashmir Times, 15 October 2007

**Mirwaiz favours fresh moves for Kashmir resolution**

SRINAGAR, Oct 14: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M), today favoured fresh initiatives by India and Pakistan for the solution of Kashmir issue. He was addressing the people before the Eid prayers at Eidgah here. "Both India and Pakistan have to take fresh and effective initiatives for a solution. They must make a forward movement for solving Kashmir issue according to the aspirations of

Kashmiris,"Mirwaiz said. He viewed that delaying a solution is neither in the interests of India Pakistan nor those of Kashmiris. "On this Eid we-Kashmiris- want to send a message of good will to the people of India and Pakistan. We want to tell the people of the two countries that we are for their welfare and progress. But we want also to tell them the way they have a right to progress and build their futures, we-Kashmiris- too must be given the right of our future," the Hurriyat (M) chairman said...

Daily Excelsior, 16 October 2007

**15 houses gutted in Gojwara: SPO killed, 3 hurt in shoot-out**

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: While suspected militants today gunned down an SPO in Kupwara district, three members of a family have been left wounded in a shootout in Budgam district last night. Informed sources said that suspected militants, three in number, appeared at Chandigam in Kupwara district at 1915 hours this evening and dragged out SPO Mushtaq Ahmed from his home. After he offered resistance, the unarmed SPO was gunned down outside. Sources said that SPO Mushtaq, who had been working with Sheikhnaar (Sogam) camp of SOG Kupwara, had gone to his home without the permission of his officers to celebrate Eid with his family members. Militants apparently came to know of his presence and they eliminated him in the evening today...

Kashmir Times, 16 October 2007

**Dialogue must carry forward: Farooq**

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: The Indian and Pakistani leaders need to give impetus to the dialogue process to take it to a logical conclusion. This was stated by National Conference patron and former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah while addressing people at his Gupkar residence. Farooq said that the deadlock in the dialogue process is adding to the uncertainty in Kashmir and making people apprehensive about the whole dialogue process. "By giving impetus to the dialogue process, the uncertainty prevalent in the air can be removed. Also the Kashmir issue can only be solved through dialogue process and for this very reason, India and Pakistan need to give impetus to the dialogue process," he said...

Kashmir Times, 16 October 2007

**Some quake-hit families brace up for 3rd winter sans home**

BARAMULLA, Oct 15: As the winter has already set in, the 11 families at Nambra-Uri are still moving from pillar to post to get government relief disbursed in their favour. Two years have elapsed since the October 8 earthquake hit the valley, devouring thousands of lives, devastating the property worth crores, and rendering families homeless. "Almost every quake hit family has received the government relief but we are still approaching different offices for the same," said Ali Mohammad Sheikh, one among the 11 families. With the winter already set in there has been a manifold increase of problems for these families. The family heads of these families are worried for their children, and old aged family members who are vulnerable to inclement weather...

Kashmir Times, 16 October 2007

**Corruption on rise in J&K : NC**

JAMMU, Oct 15: Expressing concern over increasing corruption in Jammu and Kashmir,

the National Conference (NC) provincial president Ajay Sadhotra today said that all the efforts of the state government had fallen flat. He said, "If the trend continues the day is not far when the state will be at number 1 position as regards corruption". "The clam of the present dispensation headed to weed out corruption from the state stands nowhere," Ajay Sadhotra said while addressing one-day convention of office bearers of Akhnoor constituency at Nud today. He called upon the people to rise to the occasion, and weed out the present dispensation...

Daily Excelsior, 17 October 2007

### **Massive hunt for absconder: 3 top LeT militants gunned down in Gool**

JAMMU, Oct 16: In a major success, police and security forces today gunned down three top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants and were hunting for the fourth at Paki Wali Dhok in Lancha area of Gool in Ramban district. A large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives have been recovered from the slain militants. DIG Doda range Farooq Khan said a police party joined by troops of 61 Rashtriya Rifles and Border Security Force (BSF) launched a joint search operation in Lancha area in wee hours of this morning after developing a specific information about the presence of four Lashkar militants in the area...

Greater Kashmir, 17 October 2007

### **Police yet to initiate criminal proceedings against Papa Kishtwari: Families of disappeared men**

Srinagar, Oct 28: Families of men who have been subjected to enforced custodial disappearance by armed forces in the state Sunday accused police of delaying the initiation of criminal proceedings against Papa Kishtwari, the barbarian government sponsored gunman, who has been charges with murder of several people, including one Ali Muhammad Mir of Nishat. The families fighting for the cause of disappeared men under the banner of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) also accused police of delaying the filing of challans against 10 ITBP personnel involved in custodial disappearance of a youth from Islamabad...

Daily Excelsior, 17 October 2007

### **CM announces relocation of troops from Verinag**

Verinag, Oct 16: Asserting that development and progress were his main agenda on which he was working from very first day of his assuming office, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today cautioned public against the politics of votes and hollow slogans resorted to by some people. Addressing party workers here, Mr Azad said the negative and vote politics has left the State decades behind in the march of progress, adding that those who opposed development were worst enemies of the people. He said during the last two years, his Government had taken up several important development works in schools, hospitals, power and road sectors across the State and exuded confidence that in the coming year before the Assembly elections, a new chapter of development would have been written in the history of the State. ..

Daily Excelsior, 17 October 2007

### **Govt sets up STF on human rights**

Srinagar, Oct 16: A Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to monitor implementation of the recommendations of the State Human Rights Commission met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and constituted a Special Task Force which was asked to submit its report by November end. The Task Force would be headed by an officer of the level of the Director General of Police/Commissioner, Civil-Military Liaison with three Members, official sources said. The Task Force has been directed to visit different districts and have meetings with District Level Screening Committees, headed by Deputy Commissioners, to review implementations/recommendations of the State Human Rights Commission since its inception (1997-1998)...

Kashmir Times, 17 October 2007

### **Consortium pleads against cabinet decision**

JAMMU, Oct 16: The State High Court today heard arguments in the much publicized writ petition filed by a consortium of SPAS Norway, Qzaltin of Turkey and Hindustan Construction Company against the decision of Jammu and Kashmir government to float global tenders. It may be recalled here that the state government without affording an opportunity had cancelled the tender to the consortium of SPAS Norway, Qzaltin of Turkey and Hindustan Construction Company for the execution of work on prestigious 1200 MW Sawlakote power project...

Daily Excelsior, 18 October 2007

### **'Make it on line with Central Act': Governor returns Right to Information bill**

JAMMU, Oct 17: In a significant development, Governor Lt Gen (retd) S K Sinha has returned Right to Information Act (RTI) Amendment Bill, passed by the State Legislature in its Monsoon session in Srinagar ending August this year. The bill was returned yesterday. Authoritative sources told the Excelsior that the legislation, which was approved by the Assembly on August 31 and the Council a day later, was returned to the Government by the Governor on the ground the bill differed on many accounts with the Central Act...

Daily Excelsior, 18 October 2007

### **Lashkar bid for fidayeen attack in Kishtwar fails**

JAMMU, Oct 17: Two top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants, captured alive recently by police along with their associate in Kishtwar district, were planning a fidayeen attack on security forces installation in Kishtwar town. Disclosures made by the militants to this effect during their questioning have been corroborated through data deciphered from a satellite telephone and two mobile telephones recovered from their possession. Official sources told the Excelsior that questioning of Nissar Ahmed alias Abu Maaz and Ghulam Mohd Shah alias Abu Qasim, who were arrested from Pattimal on October 14 afternoon along with Farooq Ahmed, has revealed that Abu Qasim, who was acting as a district commander of the LeT outfit for Upper Kishtwar, had recently been directed by a LeT's Pakistan based commander Abu Ulema to shift to Kishtwar town within a fortnight to carry out a fidayeen attack on a major installation of security forces...

Daily Excelsior, 18 October 2007

### **Centre to extend liberal funding to J&K**

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: With the Government focussing on minimising Human Rights Violations in J&K, the militancy-hit State is on the verge of not having a single custodial disappearance this year if the present trend continues. Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad voiced this optimism on the Human Rights situation in the border State here today saying no case of custodial disappearance has been reported so far in 2007 unlike in the previous years since the outbreak of militancy in the late 80's. "We want to ensure there is no Human Rights Violation. So far in the first 10 months in 2007, there has been no case of custodial disappearance reported and I hope this will remain for the rest of the two months as well," he said in his inaugural address at the second editors conference on social infrastructure issues here...

Greater Kashmir, 18 October 2007

**After arrival, CBI grills accused in sex abuse case**

Srinagar, Oct 17: On directions from the High Court, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday commenced its probe by grilling an accused in the sexual abuse case. After its arrival from Chandigarh on Tuesday, CBI team led by Deputy Superintendent Harish Singh questioned Muzaffar Handoo at Humhama office of CBI on Wednesday, reliable sources told Greater Kashmir. The High Court in its judgement had said, Muzaffar Handoo of Rajbagh, and one Naza alias Manju, reportedly a councillor in Municipal Corporation who are both allegedly involved in sex racketing at high official and political level. Why they have been left untouched except for a brief interaction by the I.O. (Investigating Officer) with Manju, has not been spoken about....

Kashmir Times, 18 October 2007

**Kashmir HC Bar warns warring Hurriyat factions, calls for unity**

Srinagar, Oct 17: The High Court Bar Association has warned that if the Hurriyat factions don't mend their ways, the Kashmir may be heading towards civil war. Addressing a seminar at Saddar court here today, Bar president, Nazir Ahmad Ronga said that Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a crucial phase. "At this crucial phase unity among the separatist camp is must and important", he said. He said that both the factions should give up their differences and work collectively for carrying forward the movement to its logical end. "Instead of their individual interests, they should think in the larger interest of the people. They should sort out their differences and mend their ways", he said...

Greater Kashmir, 18 October 2007

**Telgi like stamp paper scam unearthed in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Oct 17: In a case resembling the infamous Telgi stamp paper scam, police has unearthed a stamp paper scam in Kashmir with the recovery of fake documents worth lakhs of rupees. Six persons have been arrested while two of the kingpins believed to be from outside state are still at large. Police says the gang was operational in central and south Kashmir and sold the fake stamp papers through some vendors at Courts, including Saddar Court Srinagar. The fake documents worth around Rs 16 lakhs were recovered from Islamabad and Pulwama districts of south Kashmir, Inspector General of Police, Crime and Railways Dilbag Singh said Wednesday. He said the police got active following two complaints from Courts who suspected that the some non-judicial papers

were forged...

Kashmir Times, 19 October 2007

**Pull out of govt: Farooq to Mufti**

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) patron Dr Farooq Abdullah today asked PDP to withdraw support to Azad government, pull out of it and favour fresh elections since the party feels that the state government has failed to deliver on economic and political fronts. Addressing a press conference at his party headquarters here, Dr Abdullah ridiculed the PDP patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's displeasure over the "dismal" performance of the coalition government...

Greater Kashmir, 19 October 2007

**Army seeks deferment of fake encounters trial**

Srinagar, Oct 18: Army on Thursday filed an application in the court seeking deferment of proceedings in fake encounter killing of Molvi Showkat Khatana of Banihal, Doda, saying the case is identical with the infamous Pathribal case which has been stayed by the Supreme Court. During hearing of the case in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Aijaz Hussain Mir, the Army through its counsel filed the application seeking deferment of the case till Pathribal case is decided. After hearing arguments of the counsels, the court directed the state through Chief Prosecuting Officer Bashir Ahmad to file objections within one week. The case would come up for hearing on October 25...

Greater Kashmir, 19 October 2007

**UJC bans use of anti-personnel mines**

Srinagar, Oct 18: The United Jihad Council, an amalgam of Kashmiri militant groups, has announced a ban on the use of antipersonnel mines in the state. This was stated in a statement by the Geneva-based International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) to Greater Kashmir on Thursday. It said the announcement came at the end of a two-week mission to Pakistan-administered Kashmir by a team of the ICBL and was the result of a year-long series of activities carried out in partnership with the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a Srinagar-based ICBL member. The UJC comprises 13 Kashmiri groups and is presently headed by Syed Salahuddin, the supreme commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. Five other non-Kashmiri groups have observer status, and UJC directives are binding upon them, the statement said...

Greater Kashmir, 19 October 2007

**Police yet to initiate criminal proceedings against Papa Kishtwari: Families of disappeared men**

Srinagar, Oct 28: Families of men who have been subjected to enforced custodial disappearance by armed forces in the state Sunday accused police of delaying the initiation of criminal proceedings against Papa Kishtiwari, the barbarian government sponsored gunman, who has been charges with murder of several people, including one Ali Muhammad Mir of Nishat. The families fighting for the cause of disappeared men under the banner of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) also accused police of delaying the filing of challans against 10 ITBP personnel involved in custodial disappearance of a youth from Islamabad...

Daily Excelsior, 19 October 2007

**'Ups and downs in terrorist violence': No thinning of forces in J&K: Army chief**

NEW DELHI: In significant comments ahead of Indo-Pak talks on terrorism, new Army Chief Gen Deepak Kapoor today said there were ups and downs in terrorist violence levels in the country. "Whenever there is a lull, some incidents take place to vitiate the atmosphere." On Jammu and Kashmir, Gen Kapoor, who was speaking to newsmen on the sidelines of a flag-in function to honour men of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, ruled out any thinning of forces saying that terrorist violence in the State has not come down. "If the violence level is going up, Army's role is to bring it down," Gen Kapoor, who took over as Army Chief earlier this month, said making it clear "it is not the time for troop reduction in Jammu and Kashmir." ..

Greater Kashmir, 20 October 2007

**Farooq condemns Karachi blasts**

Srinagar: Former chief minister Dr Farooq Abdullah and Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq have strongly condemned the bomb blasts in the reception procession of Benazir Bhutto in Karachi. Expressing shock and grief over the loss of human life in the incident, Dr Farooq termed it the handiwork of enemies of democracy. He expressed sympathies with the bereaved families. Mirwaiz while addressing Friday prayer meeting at Jamia Masjid here termed the Karachi blasts a demonstration of sheer terrorism, which needed to be condemned by every human being. He sympathized with all the bereaved families and prayed for speedy recovery of injured...

Daily Excelsior, 20 October 2007

**Border forces hold meeting**

JAMMU: Indian and Chinese border guards today held a meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh district to ensure peace and tranquillity in the region. Both sides were represented by nine army officers at the meeting which was held in an atmosphere of mutual trust, a Defence release said here. The Chinese army delegation was received by Brigadier Surinder Singh, it said. Both sides agreed to further intensify efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity in the region in line with the border peace and tranquillity accord signed in 1993, the release said. Such meetings were also aimed at developing long lasting friendship between border forces of the two countries, the release said...

Daily Excelsior, 20 October 2007

**PDP to review alliance: Mehbooba**

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) today said it would review its relationship with Congress if its demands on various critical issues are not met. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said her party had not set any deadline for dealing with such issues. We cannot put a time frame like weeks or months on it. It is a continuous process which is reviewed periodically, she said. Mehbooba said at a recent meeting, majority of PDP leaders have authorised party patron and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to take a decision on reviewing the working relation with Congress in Jammu and Kashmir's ruling coalition...

Kashmir Times, 20 October 2007

**DySP accused of raping woman: SHRC refers case to Crime Branch**

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has directed that the rape case wherein the DySP of Poonch and his friend are involved should be referred to the Crime Branch of the state police and the guilty should be punished. In his decision, the chairman of the SHRC, Justice Kawoosa has said that during his visit to Poonch on September 5, 2007 he received a written complaint from a woman wherein she complained that local police came to her house at 11:00 pm and knocked the door. She had written in the complaint that the police team told her husband Qadeer that DySP Poonch Suram Singh had summoned him to the police station. She had complained that both her husband and she were taken to the police station where they were kept in a separate lock ups...

Greater Kashmir, 20 October 2007

**Geelani accuses GoI of bringing demographic changes in Kashmir**

Srinagar, Oct 19: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (G) Chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Friday said government of India was working to bring demographic changes in Kashmir and described acquisition of land by troops across Jammu and Kashmir as conspiracy to outnumber Kashmiris. Addressing people at Bandipore, where ten houses were razed down on Thursday, Geelani said, India was using all tactics to weaken the resistance. Geelani described establishing of new army camps and teaching of Gandhian philosophy as move to attack the very culture of people of Kashmir. He said that people were being divided in sects and groups. Time has come when we should be remain cautious of conspirators and saboteurs, Geelani said...

Daily Excelsior, 21 October 2007

**SHRC raps police over shoddy probe into youth's disappearance**

SRINAGAR, Oct The Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Commission rapped the state police for its shoddy probe into the disappearance of a man, who went missing five years ago, and asked the State Government to pay compensation of Rs two lakh to his four sisters. Disposing of a petition, SHRC member Habibullah Bhat asked to the Government to pay Rs two lakh to the four sisters who have lost their brother, Ghulam Rasool Lone, as ex-gratia relief and provide a Government job to family member on compassionate grounds. Expressing his displeasure over the shoddy probe into the matter, the Commission also directed the probe to be handed over to the crime branch of the State Police...

Daily Excelsior, 21 October 2007

**Geelani placed under house arrest**

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Authorities here have placed breakaway Hurriyat Conference chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani under house arrest since last night, apprehending trouble in view of his scheduled visit to north Kashmir's Kupwara district, where a teacher was shot dead by soldiers yesterday, his aide said today. Breakaway Hurriyat Conference spokesman Ayaz Akbar said Mr Geelani was scheduled to leave for Kupwara early this morning to attend an Eid-e-Milan there. "The programme had been finalised last week

only. Mr Geelani was also expected to visit the residence of Abdul Rashid Mir, a teacher who was killed by the Army yesterday," he added...

Greater Kashmir, 21 October 2007

### **Rashid died for colleagues' honour**

Marsary, (Kupwara), Oct 20: Anti-army, anti-India, and pro-freedom demonstrations for the second day Saturday against the cold blooded murder of a teacher by soldiers were revolutionary in scale with people accusing the soldiers of torturing the teacher to death. The people said the murder was pre-planned because the teacher, Abdul Rashid Mir, had objected many a time to the obscene comments passed by a Major, a Subedar, and other soldiers at his female colleagues who always accompanied Mir. The teachers of Government Middle School Marsary say that Mir used to accompany female teachers so that army men would not tease them on their way to school...

Daily Excelsior, 21 October 2007

### **Trade goods through LoC: Mehbooba**

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Advocating free flow of goods through the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti today said India and Pakistan should allow movement of trucks on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road at the earliest. "I think there should be no problem now in allowing movement of goods on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road", she said in a statement. Stating that it would be a key confidence building measure for the people of the State, she said other traditional routes too should be thrown open for the free movement of people and goods between the two countries. She said the export of products like carpets, furniture, silk, fruits, spices, aromatic plants, pulses, saffron and basmati rice through the Line of Control, would contribute immensely to the economic growth of the State...

Daily Excelsior, 21 October 2007

### **SP's PSO, militant killed in Sopore**

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Personal Security Officer (PSO) of SP Sopore and a Pakistani militant of Lashkar-e-Toiba today died in a face-to-face encounter in an orchard on Sopore-Bandipore Road. Informed official sources told EXCELSIOR that over a specific information available with Sopore Police, troops of 22 Bn launched a cordon-and-search operation at Malpora, close to Malmapanpora, on Sopore-Bandipore Road in the forenoon today. A militant, who was present in the locality, managed to escape. After troops withdrew the operation, Police received tip off according to which the escapee was in an apple orchard, about KM away...

Daily Excelsior, 22 October 2007

### **Trade across LoC by next year; 9 items identified: Centre**

SRINAGAR: The Centre today said India and Pakistan have Identified nine items for trade across the Line of Control (LoC), likely to commence by middle of the next year. Addressing a news conference here, Union Minister of State for Commerce Jairam Ramesh said the items included carpets, rugs, chain stitch and wall hangings, shawls, embroidery, handicrafts, furniture, silk and silk products, Kashmiri fruit, spices, flowers, Kashmiri saffron, Kashmiri wazwan (cuisine), aromatic plants, fruit bearing plants and

dhania and basmati rice. He said almost 90 per cent of items proposed by the Jammu and Kashmir government have been agreed to by the two countries...

Daily Excelsior, 22 October 2007

### **Dussehra celebrated in Kashmir after 2 decades**

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: After a gap of two decades Kashmiri Pandits today celebrated Dussehra here setting ablaze an effigy of Ravana signifying the triumph of good over evil. Several people including Muslims watched the effigy bursting into flames at Sher-i-Kashmir cricket stadium at Sonawar here, reminding one of pre-militancy days. Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, the party representing the non-migrant Pandit community had organised the event. The president of the Samiti, S K Tickoo said he was delighted that it had gone off well. "I am really pleased because it was after a gap of 20 years that we successfully organised this important function, he said and thanked people for taking part in the effigy burning with enthusiasm. The festival began with the organisers bursting crackers before setting the effigy ablaze...

Greater Kashmir, 22 October 2007

### **Farooq Abdullah warns of another 90-like rebellion**

Srinagar, Oct 21: Former Chief Minister and National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah on Sunday warned of another 1990-like rebellion in Kashmir if human rights abuses continue unabated. People of Kashmir are losing patience, Farooq said, and if killings of innocents continue another 1990 rebellion cannot be ruled out. Addressing a public gathering in Sarnal, Islamabad, Farooq took Ghulam Nabi Azad-led coalition for task for what he called spreading lies about the situation in the conflict-ridden state. He termed Azad's recent statement that no human rights violations take place in the state as hoax...

Kashmir Times, 22 October 2007

### **No commitment to PM on RTC: Mirwaiz**

SRINAGAR, OCT 21: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, chairman Hurriyat Conference (M), today denied that his faction had made any commitment to prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh to attend his round table conference here last year. In an informal chat to a local news agency KNS, Mirwaiz accused central government of cheating Hurriyat (M) and sabotaging the dialogue process. The Hurriyat (M) chairman's reaction came after the prime minister's recent statement in which he said that the separatist group did not attend his round table conference despite making a commitment to be part of it. Dr Singh has been making the statement since last year...

Kashmir Times, 22 October 2007

### **APHC-AJK to protest against: Kupwara killings on Oct 27**

JAMMU, Oct 21: All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK Chapter has demanded demilitarization of Jammu and Kashmir and abrogation of black laws, giving sweeping powers to Indian army to perpetrate state terrorism of highest magnitude on the people in the troubled region. This has been stated here by Muhammad Farooq Rehmani convener APHC AJK while voicing his concern over on the murder of a school teacher, humiliation of female teachers and students and indiscriminate firing on protesting

demonstrators in Kupwara. He also protested against fresh curbs on Syed Ali Geelani Chairman APHC(G) by police to prevent him from proceeding to Kupwara, the scene of the latest tragedy. He said presence of army was mother of terrorism in Kashmir...

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2007

### **Centre to set up major marketing facility for J&K traders in New Delhi**

SRINAGAR, Oct 22: In a historic agreement, India and Pakistan have cleared nine out of the proposed 14 items for cross-LoC trade between two divided parts of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition to holding Kashmir handicrafts expositions all over the world, Centre is also establishing a major marketing facility for J&K traders and exporters in New Delhi, taking a host of measures to promote tourism, leather, gem and floriculture industry in the embattled State as also training young entrepreneurs in different trades. On his third visit to Srinagar in the last four months, Union Minister of State for Commerce, Jairam Ramesh, today unfolded features of a significant trade agreement between India and Pakistan, through divided parts of the State across LoC, at a news conference in presence of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad...

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2007

### **India gives Pak proof of cross border linkages**

NEW DELHI, Oct 22: India today sought Pakistan's cooperation in tracking down the suspects in the recent bomb blasts in Hyderabad, Ajmer and Ludhiana as it provided evidence of the cross-border linkages to these incidents at the Joint Anti-Terror Meeting (JATM) here. New Delhi also sought to know what action Islamabad had taken on information provided about persons believed to be behind the cross-border Samjhauta Express blasts and other terror attacks in India over the last two years. "Both sides shared new information on terrorist incidents, including those which have occurred since the last meeting," a joint statement issued after the second JATM said...

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2007

### **4 ultras held, 3 hurt in blasts**

SRINAGAR, Oct 22: Four militants, who were planning to carry out attacks in the city and its periphery were arrested by security forces in Kashmir valley where three persons were injured in explosions. A police spokesman said two Hizbul Mujahideen militants were arrested on a tip off from Natipora while one Al-Badr militant was arrested from Naaz Crossing in Civil Lines area of the city. The spokesman identified the Hizbul Mujahideen militants as Manzoor Ahmad Wani alias Tariq of Lalpora-Tangmarg and Manzoor Ahmad Lone alias Kashif alias Doctor of Zangam-Pattan..

Kashmir Times, 23 October 2007

### **Boycott army functions: Geelani**

Srinagar, Oct 22: Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani has urged people to completely boycott the army functions in the state. This he said while addressing people at Rawatpora, Handwara, where a teacher was killed allegedly by army personnel few days back. Geelani today visited Rawatpora to express solidarity with the family of teacher, Abdul Rashid Dar, who was shot dead by army personnel few days back. Hundreds of people assembled in the house and raised anti-India, anti-army and

pro-freedom slogans. Addressing the people, Geelani condemned the killing of teacher and termed it as a yet another instant of "state terrorism". He urged the people to boycott the army functions. "People should stay away from all the army functions", he said...

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2007

### **119 cross sides at Chakkan Da Bagh**

POONCH, Oct 22: A total 119 persons from both the sides of the Line of Control (LoC) crossed the either side after Chakkan-da-Bagh LoC point in district Poonch was opened today. While seventy (70) persons came to this side, a total 49 persons crossed over to PoK today. The LOC point opened at 10.55 am (IST) and was closed at 6 pm. Out of the total 70 persons who came to this side, 39 were fresh who came here to meet their relations from Pak Occupied Kashmir, whereas, 31 Indian were returnees. Thirty fresh J&K residents crossed over to that side today alongwith 19 PoK returnees...

Greater Kashmir, 24 October 2007

### **Kashmir is disputed, Pak tells UN**

United Nations, Oct 23: Pakistan has rejected an Indian claim that Kashmir is a part of India, saying United Nations resolutions have recognized the Himalayan state as disputed territory. Jammu and Kashmir is not an integral part of India, nor has it ever been, Pakistani delegate Ahmad Raza Kasuri told the General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with decolonisation questions. Kasuri was exercising his right of reply to an earlier statement by Indian delegate Rameshwar Oraon claiming Kashmir to be a part of India, and insisting that Pakistan's call for self-determination for the Kashmiri people was unwarranted and completely irrelevant to the committee's work. Pakistan, according to Oraon, would have been better served by focusing on giving the right of self-determination and democracy to its own people. Bilateral issues should be discussed bilaterally, not in multilateral forums, the Indian delegate added...

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2007

### **Overall situation in J&K, NE improving: Antony**

NEW DELHI : Stressing that terrorism continues to be one of the major challenges the country is facing, Defence Minister A K Antony today urged the Armed Forces to upgrade their capabilities to counter the threat posed by terrorists in the fast-changing world of technology. "As terrorists constantly modernise their communication network, there is an urgent need to continuously upgrade our own capabilities to successfully counter the threat posed by them," Mr Antony said in his address at the Combined Commanders Conference here. "In this context, it must be said that the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast has shown steady signs of improvement," he added

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2007

### **Devastating blaze reduces entire hamlet to ashes**

JAMMU, Oct 23: In a devastating fire that virtually wiped out a complete hamlet in upper reaches of Wadwan in newly created Kishtwar district, 166 houses and nearly 100 cowsheds were reduced to ashes while 107 persons sustained injuries and 1500 people were rendered houseless last night. In view of topography of the area, which was

accessible only by helicopter in view of two days walking distance from motorable road from Kishtwar and one day from Kokernag, Anantnag, the people had to wait for nearly 20 hours before first help in the shape of tents, medicines and food could reach them

Greater Kashmir, 24 October 2007

### **Rights abuse calls for bold response: PDP**

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has said that the continued abuse of human rights in the state calls for a major and bold response from the political leadership of the country. While talking to a public gathering in Pulwama today she said isolated probes would add up to nothing considering the highly disturbing scenario that is emerging as a result of loss of life and property as a result of such incidents, a PDP spokesman said. According to the spokesman, Mehbooba said nothing short of a well thought out reduction of forces engaged in internal security duty could help in addressing the situation. That is why, she added, the PDP had for quite sometime advocated reduction of troops and revocation of special powers granted to them to tackle a situation that no longer exists ❖?❖

Kashmir Times, 24 October 2007

### **BJP proposes joint operation by Indo, Pak armies in Pakistan**

JAMMU, Oct 23: To deal with the scourge of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and within Pakistan the BJP today suggested India and Pakistan to conduct joint military operation within Pakistan. BJP also lashed out at the arch-rival Congress saying, "Both UPA government at the centre and Congress-led coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir are on ventilators." Party's national president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Rajnath Singh also outrightly rejected PDP's demand of self-rule and demilitarization besides dismissing National Conference's proposal of greater autonomy. Addressing media persons here this morning after his arrival in the temple city, Rajnath Singh said, "To deal with militancy, first Pakistan should be convinced to stop aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and then both the countries (India and Pakistan) should launch a joint military operation to destroy terrorist camps." ❖?❖

Daily Excelsior, 25 October 2007

### **Top brass flies to Margi, CM visiting today: Margan-Inshan road opened to rush emergency supplies**

JAMMU, Oct 24: With winter having already set in and snowfall expected any time in fire ravaged Margi village in remote and upper reaches of Wadwan in Kishtwar district, bordering Kokernag area in Anantnag, the Government has decided to construct tin roof houses for nearly 170 families who lost their homes and entire belongings including six months ration stored for winter in devastating blaze on Monday night. Till the tin roof houses are constructed, in which the local people will also be involved along with administration, a tented colony is being set up at Margi to accommodate more than 1500 people, who were dislocated with the fire that reduced entire hamlet to ashes and the inhabitants shelterless. The tents being put up in the village are of superior quality which can withstand snowfall and rains, which were expected to lash the area anytime...

Greater Kashmir, 25 October 2007

### **Pak package for northern areas evokes mixed reaction**

Srinagar, Oct 24: The announcement of financial and administrative autonomy package for Northern Areas by Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf yesterday evoked a mixed reaction from this side of Line of Control. While Mirwaiz Umar Farooq termed this a step towards self-governance, Peoples Democratic Party said it was in league with its demand of Self Rule. National Conference said Musharraf seemed to be impressed by its Autonomy document. However, Syed Ali Geelani dismissed the package as non-issue, saying the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was disputed and needed to be resolved as per its historical perspective...

Daily Excelsior, 25 October 2007

### **HuM bid to exchange fake currency**

SRINAGAR, Oct 24: A bag with Rs 1.9 lakh in fake currency, a bullet and an extortion letter from Harkat-ul-Mujahideen was today dropped at a bank in Shopian town by a man working for the militant outfit. The counterfeit money was to be changed by the Bank Manager for "genuine currency notes" and if he failed to comply, then he would receive a bullet, the letter warned. The suspected HuM overground worker, who had come to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch at Imam Sahib in Shopian, lost his nerve, left the bag and fled on a motorcycle on seeing some policemen entering the bank, officials said here...

Greater Kashmir, 25 October 2007

### **Teacher's Murder: Post-mortem puts Army in tight spot**

Srinagar, Oct 24: The post-mortem report of Abdur Rashid Mir, a teacher who was murdered in cold blood by soldiers in frontier district of Kupwara last week, has put Army in a tight spot. Sources told Greater Kashmir on Wednesday that post-mortem report states that brain injury and gun shots caused massive blood loss leading to Mir's death. The post-mortem was conducted by Dr Javed and Dr Shafi under the supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kralpora Dr Muneer, the sources said, adding, The doctors found severe torture marks on the body of slain teacher. Massive blood loss led to his death. Police had registered an FIR no. 147/07 Under Section- 302 against a Major, a Subedar and their associates of 331 Artillery unit after the incident and investigations were taken up...

Greater Kashmir, 25 October 2007

### **Troops occupy Pandit house in Bandipore: Family Accuses Government Of Inaction, Plan To Move Court**

Bandipore, Oct 24: When Pandit Som Nath, a Kashmiri Pandit who had migrated to Jammu in 1990 returned to his native village at Kaloosa here recently, he was shocked to see his house occupied by troops. Nath was prompted to move to his native village following assurances by government of making arrangements for Kashmiri Pandits who return to Kashmir. As we set up for our village from Jammu, my family was very elated. However, when we reached our house at Bandipore we were shocked to see CRPF and SOG men there, a visibly perturbed Nath told Greater Kashmir. Adding insult to our injury, Nath said, the troops and SOG cops did not allow us to enter even the compound

of our house. ...

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2007

**Azad announces rehabilitation, relief for Margi fire victims**

Margi (Warwan), Oct 25: Cutting short his Delhi visit where he was scheduled to attend meetings on development of the State, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad arrived in Srinagar early morning and straightaway flew to this ill-fated village, ravaged by the Tuesday's blaze to take stock of relief measures initiated by the Government on a major scale. Mr Azad compared devastation of the village inhabited by 1700 souls with the calamity of October 2005 in Tangdhar, Uri and Poonch and said like in case of those habitations no effort would be spared to rehabilitate the victims. He said the area is most backward, not only in the country but perhaps in the entire world. The village is irated 120 kms from tehsil and district headquarters with no road connectivity, and the disaster has worsened plight of the population...

Greater Kashmir, 26 October 2007

**Violence down by 40%: IGP**

Srinagar, Oct 25: Violence in Jammu and Kashmir has decreased by 40 percent compared to last year's figures despite continuing efforts of infiltration from across the Line of Control, a top police officer said Thursday. There has been 60 percent decline in violence in Srinagar city and 40 percent in other parts of the state compared to last year, said Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Shiv Mohan Sahai while speaking here at a seminar on role of youth in crime-free society. Sahai blamed 18 years of conflict for an increase in crime in the state. When I joined police 20 years back and was posted as SDPO, 10 murders used to happen in a year in the state. But now the situation is different and last 18 years of conflict is responsible for it, he said...

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2007

**Antony to visit Kashmir tomorrow to review situation**

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: Defence Minister A K Antony will visit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, the second time in less than two months, to review the security situation in the State at the highest level. Antony would chair a meeting of senior Army and State Government officials during his day-long visit, which comes in the backdrop of fresh demands for reduction of troops by the ruling Congress Party's coalition partner PDP. As a prelude to the Minister's visit, the Defence Ministry today announced a new package of Rs 26.75 crore to be disbursed among the people affected by the ammunition dump fire at Khundroo in the State...

Kashmir Times, 26 October 2007

**Kataria fake encounter case: Govt plea objections to army's plea**

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: The state government today filed objections before Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Srinagar in view of an application and an apex court judgment moved by accused army personnel in Showket Ahmad Kataria fake encounter case. The next hearing in the case would be on November 3. In its application moved before CJM court the GOC Kilo Force, while referring to CBI versus Brig Ajay Saxena case had maintained that since 'it would be expedient if the court would await the decision of the

Apex Court in special leave petition filed in the identical case the decision of the Apex Court would be applicable and binding on this court, therefore the proceedings including the exercise of option may be deferred until the decision of apex court'...

Greater Kashmir, 26 October 2007

**India should take cue: Separatists on autonomy for NAs**

Srinagar, Oct 25: The announcement of financial and administrative autonomy package for Northern Areas by Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has generated a heated debate among the pro-freedom leaders in the Valley. Professor Abdul Gani, former Hurriyat (M) chairman and senior pro-freedom leader while reacting to Musharraf's announcement of further empowering the Northern Area Legislative Council and giving it an Assembly status said, Granting of political package to the people of Northern Area is step towards making them the masters of their own destiny and it's a right move at right time. Advising New Delhi to draw a lesson from the step taken by Musharraf, he said, New Delhi needs to realise the importance of resolving the Kashmir issue. Till this vexed issue is not resolved peace cannot prevail in South Asia..

Greater Kashmir, 26 October 2007

**'Observe Oct 27 as black day': UJC for unity among separatist leaders**

Muzaffarabad, Oct 25: Making it clear that the struggle in Jammu and Kashmir will continue with full force on militant, political and diplomatic fronts, the United Jihad Council, an alliance of militant groups, has urged the Kashmiri leaders to bury their personal, organisational and other differences and unite with open hearts for complete freedom of their motherland. In a statement issued on the eve of Oct 27, the day when India landed its troops in the disputed Himalayan region six decades ago under instrument of accession, the UJC chief Syed Salahuddin also asked the (pro freedom) leadership and common people to be wary of "attempts by the Indian government and its agencies to create wedge in their ranks."

Daily Excelsior, 27 October 2007

**Violence down in J&K, terror infrastructure intact: CRPF**

NEW DELHI, Oct 26: Ruling out any reduction of its personnel in militancy-infested Jammu and Kashmir, the CRPF today said the terrorist infrastructure in the State was intact though there was a slight decrease in number of violent incidents. There has been a "slight" decrease in the number of terrorist-related incidents and reduction in civilian causality, CRPF Director General S I S Ahmed told reporters on the eve of 68th raising day of the para-military force. "This does not mean that infrastructure of terrorists is not there. The grouping, planning and execution is there. I do not see a reduction in CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Out of the 201 battalions, a maximum of 72, which is 40 per cent of the about 60,000-strong force, are deployed in the State, he said...

Daily Excelsior, 27 October 2007

**Security Grid put on high alert for Move employees**

JAMMU, Oct 26: Security Grid comprising all security agencies engaged in anti-militancy operations was today put on high alert with deployment of Army, para-military and police and imposition of traffic restrictions all along the 300 km long Jammu-

Srinagar National Highway to facilitate safe movement of nearly 10,000 Darbar Move Employees as Move Offices, barring Police Headquarters, closed in Srinagar this evening. The Police Headquarters will close tomorrow. All offices in Civil Secretariat including Chief Minister's Secretariat, Legislative Assembly and Council Secretariat and Vigilance Organisation's offices were closed in the Valley this evening for shifting to winter capital of the State here for next six months. Offices in Jammu will re-open on November 5...

Daily Excelsior, 27 October 2007

### **Prayers at Charar-e-Sharief shrine after 12 years**

SRINAGAR, Oct 26: Twelve years after nearly a two-month-long standoff between militants and security forces reduced the famous shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani, one of the greatest Sufi saints of Kashmir, at Charar-e-Sharief to ashes, prayers would again be offered at this revered place of worship from next month. District Development Commissioner, Badgam, Farooq Ahmad Renzu said the shrine at Charar-e-Sharief, about 45 km south-west of Srinagar, in central Kashmir district of Badgam would be thrown open for prayers in the second week of November after 12 years. The shrine can accommodate more than 20,000 people at one time during regular prayers...

Greater Kashmir, 27 October 2007

### **Coalition fate still not sure**

Srinagar, Oct 26: Fate of the coalition government in the state continues to hang in balance as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday again warned of pulling out any time. Decision about whether to continue or not is still pending. The PDP legislators have authorized Mufti Muhammad Sayeed to take the final decision, PDP President Mehbooba Mufti told Greater Kashmir. She said that resentment was brewing among the PDP legislators and they want PDP to pull out. We are not happy with the style of functioning of the government. People are suffering due to lack of coordination among the coalition partners, the PDP president said. Asked then why PDP is not pulling out, Mehbooba said, We believe that if Kashmir issue has to be resolved then we need support of a big national party and that is Congress. Without their support Kashmir issue cannot be resolved that is why our decision is still pending...

Greater Kashmir, 27 October 2007

### **We won't beg them: Congress**

Srinagar: Congress on Friday said it will not beg for the support of Peoples Democratic Party to run the coalition government in the state. Senior Vice President of State Congress Abdul Gani Vakil told Greater Kashmir, We supported them (PDP) when they headed the coalition government and never meddled in their affairs. But they have been constantly creating problems for us. We cannot beg them for their support. Vakil accused PDP of being jealous of the growing popularity of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. Azad sahib has done a commendable job and we are all happy with his performance as head of the state...

Daily Excelsior, 28 October 2007

### **Centre directs Army to vacate school buildings**

PAHALGAM, Oct 27: The Centre has directed armed forces to vacate school buildings occupied by them in Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister A K Antony today said. "We are taking decisions ... We have directed the armed forces to vacate school buildings and other places (occupied by them)," Antony told newsmen after inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports here. On troops cut and relocation, he said the high powered committee formed on the directions of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has submitted its report. The Committee has submitted its report. The Government is studying it and assessing the situation, he said. Antony, who reviewed the security situation during his meeting with Army Commanders here, said while the situation in the State was improving, the infiltration of militants from across the border was continuing...

Daily Excelsior, 28 October 2007

### **Violence level up in J&K: Army chief**

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: New Army chief General Deepak Kapoor today said that his force would continue with its policy of iron fist and velvet gloves, saying that hardcore militants and mercenaries could not be equated with youths who had gone astray. "Terrorism continues to be a danger," he said at his first interaction with the media after taking over as Chief of Army Staff on October 1. He admitted that violence level in Jammu and Kashmir, after a sharp slump in summer, had recently gone up. "We can't lower our vigil and guard, he said, ruling out any re-deployment of forces from the State." "This year there were 50 per cent less violent incidents in J&K when compared to last year. But over the last one month there has been sudden upsurge in infiltration attempts," he said...

Greater Kashmir, 28 October 2007

### **Kashmir protests 1947 troops' arrival**

Srinagar, Oct 27: Entire Kashmir valley observed a shutdown Saturday overwhelmingly responding to strike called by pro-freedom groups in protest against the landing of Indian troops here on this day in 1947. Almost all pro-freedom groups, including both factions of Hurriyat Conference and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, had asked the people to observe October 27 as a black day against the forcible occupation of Kashmir by Indian troops in 1947. The Kashmir Bar Association and several other organisations had supported the strike call. A total strike was observed in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, including the old city. Reports of pelting of stones on moving vehicles and paramilitary troopers and burning of tyres were received from many parts of the city. Police used tear gas and batons to disperse the demonstrators...

Greater Kashmir, 28 October 2007

### **Rallies mark Oct 27 in PaK**

Muzaffarabad, Oct 27: Rallies and demonstrations were held in different parts of Pakistan administered Kashmir on Saturday to protest against the landing of Indian troops in the Himalayan region of Kashmir in 1947 and flagrant human rights violations in the territory over the past six decades at their hands. In Muzaffarabad, a rally, led by a PaK minister and an adviser to PaK prime minister, was taken out from local press club which marched up to the office of United Nations Military Observers Group for India and

Pakistan (UNMOGIP) near the confluence of rivers Neelum and Jhelum where a memorandum was delivered. The memorandum drew the attention of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon towards massive human rights abuses by Indian troops including unabated killings, custodial and extrajudicial murders, molestation of women, forcible disappearances and detentions under the draconian laws...

Greater Kashmir, 29 October 2007

### **Mufti says PDP's demand on troops cut conceded**

Srinagar, Oct 28: Elated over defence minister's direction to troops to vacate from premises from schools, hospitals and other buildings by November 30, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed has said his statement reflects an approach of objectivity and cooperation on the PDP's demand for reduction of troops and scrapping of the Special Laws. Addressing a gathering of the party workers from Ganderbal at his residence here Sunday morning, Sayeed while welcoming the Defence Minister's announcement to vacate all the civilian properties under use of the security forces by November 30 hoped that this would be a prelude to measures of wider implication on rationalizing the troop concentration for internal security duties in the State...

Greater Kashmir, 29 October 2007

### **Fires galore: LPG, short-circuit main culprits**

Srinagar, Oct 28: Two years after both parts of Kashmir were hit by a massive earthquake leaving thousands dead and rendering lakhs homeless, this year in the same month the State has witnessed a spree of fire incidents. Hundreds of structures have been in different parts of the State since October 9 rendering thousands of people homeless. Victims say that loss could have been mitigated if personnel of Fire and Emergency Services Department would have acted more swiftly, while experts advise caution to minimize the incidents. Here are some of the major fire incidents which occurred this month...

The News, 29 October 2007

### **2 HM militants killed in Kishtwar**

Jammu, Oct 29 (NAK): Army and police gunned down two Hizbul Mujahideen militants in Chingam area of Chatroo tehsil in Kishtwar district, about 270 kilometers from here, during the wee hours today. Sources claimed that the encounter started between troopers and militants when 11 Rastriya Rifle launched a search operation at Tainar area of Chingam, early Monday morning. Defence spokesman Col SD Goswami told News Agency of Kashmir that acting on a tip off security forces launched a search operation in the area and managed to identify a residential house, where two militants were hiding. On being challenged militants opened fire on the troops leading to a gun battle, he said adding, in the ensuing encounter two hiding militants were shot dead...

Daily Excelsior, 29 October 2007

### **Rather questions coalition Govt's right to continue**

Srinagar, Oct 28: Questioning the right of coalition Government to continue, former minister and senior National Conference leader Abdul Rahim Rather today said that

inaction of Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad amid severe criticism by some Cabinet ministers - was adversely affecting the cause of general masses. Addressing a public rally at Chadoora, in Budgam district, former Finance Minister said that repeated hue and cry by ruling People's Democratic Party over the failure of the State Government was testimony of the functioning of coalition alliance. "It is unfortunate that PDP ministers holding all the important portfolios in the Government due to their ego and vested interests were raising fingers at the functioning of the coalition of which they are part of," he said, adding to hide its own failures PDP is trying to blame its own alliance partner Congress and in the process has itself exposed before the public"...

Daily Excelsior, 29 October 2007

### **2 militants held, arms seized**

SRINAGAR, Oct 28: Troops arrested two militants and seized huge cache of arms and ammunition in the Kashmir Valley. A defence spokesman said that troops of 22 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and 2 Para conducted a joint search operation in Nathipura General area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district today. During the operation, troops arrested a militant, identified as Fiyaz Ahmed Lone, and seized one Chinese hand grenade and a Nokia mobile phone from his possession, the spokesman added. In a similar operation at Chalpura village in Kupwara district, troops of 21 RR apprehended an over ground worker, Javed Ahmed Khan. Khan was involved in aiding, abetting, providing food and shelter to militants of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba, he said...

The News, 30 October 2007

### **Mehbooba hits back; Says Dr Abdullah seeking a job from coalition**

Srinagar, Oct 29 (NAK): The war of words between the two arch rivals Peoples Democratic Party and National Conference seems to be intensifying. Reacting back to the recent rhetoric of, chief patron of National Conference, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti today said that Dr Farooq Abdullah has finally found some time in between his holidays and world tours, only to intrigue against the coalition government to create a job vacancy for himself. Addressing a public gathering at Pakherpura in Budgam today, Mst Mufti said that National Conference leadership has been behaving, ever since their ouster from the power, as a family living below the poverty line and in pursuit of a job for atleast one member of the family...

Daily Excelsior, 30 October 2007

### **Militant followed in Pakistan since 2004, finally surrenders**

JAMMU, Oct 29: A militant, who was in touch with police in Pakistan since 2004, has finally succeeded in crossing Line of Control (LoC) and surrendered today before police and Army in Reasi district. For the first time, police have recovered a US Cellular services mobile telephone from his possession with which the ultras were directly in contact with militants in Pakistan and Pir Panjal range. The militant, who gave a dodge to three foreign mercenaries in upper reaches of Pouni Parekh in Reasi district on the pretext of bringing cattle for the group, laid down arms before SSP Reasi J L Sharma and officers of Rashtriya Rifles this morning in Reasi district...

Daily Excelsior, 30 October 2007

### **Mati Gawran-Warwan road by Dec: CM**

Mati Gawran (Daksum), Oct 29: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that Mati Gawran-Warwan road, connecting Anantnag and Kishtwar districts, would be through by December this year, adding it shall meet the age old aspiration of people separated by Pir Panjal Mountain for centuries. He said Kokernag-Sinthan-Kishtwar road would be upgraded to double lane and the project started in April 2006 will be completed in two and a half years. Mr Azad was addressing a public meeting after inspecting ongoing work on two road projects, inaugurating a water supply scheme at Develgam and laying foundation stones of a high school and a health centre in this last south Kashmir village nestled in Panjal mountain. After the completion of the road up to Warwan, it would subsequently be extended to Dacchan and Kishtwar, he added...

Kashmir Times, 30 October 2007

### **Militants finding it difficult to infiltrate: Army**

JAMMU, Oct 29: Advanced surveillance equipment coupled with border fencing has brought infiltration to a complete halt but militants are making desperate attempts to cross over giving an indication that their support system is intact on the other side of line of control (LoC). This was stated by the recently elevated General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) western command Lt. Gen. T. K. Sapru, here today. Maintaining that it might take few more years before the terror infrastructure crumbles under its own weight, Sapru said that forces operating across the line of control (LoC) and abetting militancy are yet to wind up their establishments. "Desperation is evident from abortive attempts being made by militants to cross over," informed Sapru. He was speaking on the sidelines of a function at University of Jammu...

Greater Kashmir, 30 October 2007

### **PDP to withdraw its ministers; congress says all is well**

Srinagar, Oct 29: The threat to Congress-led government from its major ally remains imminent as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is contemplating to pull out its ministers from the cabinet. Disclosing this a senior PDP legislator pleading anonymity told Greater Kashmir on Monday that his party is seriously contemplating to withdraw ministers from the government. However, Congress party maintained that all is well within the Coalition and PDP leadership has assured it of its full support till the state government completes full term. Senior PDP leader said that rift between coalition partners has deepened further as PDP patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed and Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad are not ready to budge an inch from their respective stands...

Greater Kashmir, 31 October 2007

### **PDP to push for Kashmir resolution**

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed has said the slowdown of the Indo-Pak peace process is a temporary phase and as soon as the internal situation stabilizes in Pakistan, the reconciliation process would once again gather pace. "Even today the process is on, albeit at a slow pace," he said. Addressing a day-long convention of the PDP workers here Wednesday, Sayeed said the peace process, after overcoming the initial hiccups, has now entered into an irreversible phase and both the countries are committed to carry it forward.