

Martyr's wife refuses compensation, seeks action against Pakistan

PATNA/CHHAPRA/AGRA, MUMBAI, Aug 7:

A pall of gloom descended on the native villages of four Bihar soldiers, who were killed in an ambush by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control in Jammu and

with the soldier's elder brother and other relatives.

The soldier's mother Adhlagi Devi kept crying the whole night and fainted many times.

Devi lamented that her son had got her eyes treated on July 25 last when he had visited his native



Family members of Army jawan Vijay Kumar Rai mourn his death in Bihta, Bihar on Wednesday. (UNI)

Kashmir, with their irate kin demanding strict action against that country.

The bodies of the four jawans belonging to 21 Bihar Regiment reached here late this evening with senior Army personnel of the Danapur based regiment, besides top officials receiving them at Jai Prakash Narayan Airport.

District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of respective districts would attend their funeral which would be carried out with full State honour, Principal Secretary Cabinet Coordination Brajesh Mehrotra told reporters.

Of the four, Vijay Kumar Rai belongs to Bihta in rural Patna, Shambhu Sharan Singh hails from Bhojpur district and Premnath Singh and Raghunandan Prasad are natives of Saran district of the State.

The locals are seething with anger and want retaliatory action against Pakistan for the audacious attack and as the news of Vijay Kumar Rai's death came to Danapur, 10 km from Patna town, his mother, wife and neighbours were inconsolable.

Amid sounds of loud cry, the minor children of the jawan Vivek (6) and Neha (4), unable to understand the situation maintained a stony silence in contrast.

Rai's wife Pushpa, who was living with the children in a rented house in Danapur left for native village Anandpur Tehkaha in Bihta block of rural Patna last night itself

place, but now ironically she will not be able to see him this time around.

Vijay Kumar Rai was recruited in Bihar Regiment in 2002. His Late father Netlal Yadav also served in Army just as his younger brother Ajay Rai.

The soldier's elder brother Rajkishore Rai was furious and voiced strong military action against Pakistan for the incident.

Protests were held in different parts of Bihar against the killing of five jawans and the effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was burnt at Patna today amidst anti-Pakistan slogans.

Protesters marched through the streets raising anti-Pakistan slogans in Begusarai, Bettiah, Chhapra and other places, reports said.

BJP workers burnt Nawaz Sharif's effigy at Dak Bungalow road in the heart of the city.

Several trains, including Lichchhavi Express and a passenger train were stopped at Kopa Samhauta Railway Station between Chhapra and Siwan by neighbours and friends of Lance Naik Premnath Singh, who was among the four martyrs, demanding that the Centre take direct action against Pakistan.

Two other important trains in this section - Vaishali Express and Bihar Samparak Kranti were diverted due to agitations, official sources said.

The wife of one of the Vijay Rai has also refused to take the compensation offered by the

Government and demanded military action instead.

"Can the Rs 10 lakh compensation bring back my husband? We don't want compensation but strong military reply to Pakistan for killing my husband and other Indian soldiers," a wailing Pushpa Rai told reporters at her native village at Bihta, about 50 km from here in rural Patna.

"How long will we accept attacks by Pakistan? ... Our soldiers are killed and beheaded ... We will not accept anything less than a military action against Pakistan which is perpetrating attacks on our soldiers," she added.

Her sentiment were echoed by her husband's elder brother Rajkishore Rai.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin and state funeral to the four soldiers from Bihar who were killed in the attack yesterday.

Kumar had visited Pakistan in November last and had met Nawaz Sharif.

Senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi met the families of Vijay Rai and Shambhu Saran Singh at Bihta in rural Patna and Bhojpur district respectively and consoled their deaths.

Condemning the killing, Modi opposed resumption of peace talks with Pakistan and demanded strong protest over incidents of terror from across the border instead.

He alleged that the 'weak' UPA Government was trying to 'save' Pakistan over the attack on LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan today announced ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh to be paid to the next of kin of Army soldier Pundalik Mane from Kolhapur, who lost his life during an ambush at Poonch sector.

The amount would be given from the Chief Minister's relief fund, an official release said.

Expressing grief, Chavan said the country would not forget his sacrifice.

Mane hailed from Pimpalgaon village in Kagal taluka of Kolhapur district. "Be it protecting the country or rushing to help during emergencies, Maharashtra is always at the forefront," Chavan said.

"Everyone is proud of the sacrifice made by this brave jawan," the Chief Minister said. (PTI)

Holy mace taken to Chakreshwar, 982 perform darshan

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: The Chhari Mubarak of Swami Amarnath Ji was taken to ancient Chakreshwar temple Hari Parvat by the custodian of holy mace Mahant Deepender Giri to pay their obeisance in the temple as per age old traditions.

The Mahant Ji was accompanied by a large number of Sadhus and other devotees on the occasion.

The Chakreshwar, which is

number of pilgrims visiting holy cave so far to 3, 47,270. Till yesterday 3,46,288 pilgrims had performed darshan at cave shrine.

According to an official spokesman 305 pilgrims left for holy cave from Baltal base camp via shortest track while 182 left by air. He said 718 returned from cave shrine to base camp Baltal by foot while 230 returned by air today.

The spokesman said 295 pilgrims left from Nunwan base camp to holy cave via tra-



Sadhus led by Mahant Deepender Giri paying obeisance at Chakreshwar temple, Srinagar on Wednesday.

ditional Chandanwari track early this morning. A fresh batch of 101 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu Yatri Niwas for holy cave in three buses early this morning under tight security arrangements.

Meanwhile a group of six pilgrims from Calcutta in West Bengal today alleged that they were denied the permission to perform darshan at holy cave on August 10 by the officials at Yatra registration counter Panta Chowk, Srinagar today and instead were given the darshan date of August 9 against their wishes.

Protesting against the behavior of the officials at the yatra counters these pilgrims said that despite the shortfall of 14,000 pilgrims daily as per the target set by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, the officials were denying permission to pilgrims to pilgrims intending to perform darshan in the cave shrine as per the date of their choice.

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today appreciated Jammu and Kashmir Bank for its performance despite adverse business environment and expressed the hope that the Bank would achieve new highs in the years to come.

"Your performance has been commendable despite adverse business environment and we expect more from you. We would like you to continue your improvement. You are people's Bank and your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is stupendous", he told the Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Bank and its top level officers at the presentation of handing over of dividend cheques to the Chief Minister for the State Government by the Bank.

Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather, Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey, Chairman J&K Bank, Mushtaq Ahmad, Economic Advisor to the Government, Jali Ahmad Khan, Principal Secretary Finance, B. B. Vyas and President J&K Bank, Abdul Rauf Bhat were present on the occasion among others.

The Chief Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir Bank has a great role in socio-economic development and entrepreneurship development in the State and impressed upon the Bank to move extra-mile in this direction as also in the direction of fulfilling its CSRs.

Chairman J&K Bank, Mushtaq Ahmad presented two cheques for Rs. 128.88 crores to the Chief Minister on account of Platinum Jubilee Dividend to the State Government for the financial year 2012-13. The State Government owns over 53% of Bank's shares and is the majority shareholder. In its Platinum Jubilee year the Bank approved special dividend of 500% to its shareholders.

In his initial remarks, Chairman J&K Bank revealed that the State Government has received Rs. 584.31 crores as dividend since the inception of Bank so far, adding that out of this amount, over Rs. 282 crores has been received by the Government during last three years.

Mushtaq Ahmad said that the business of the Bank has increased from Rs. 63564 crores as on September 30, 2010 to Rs. 104143 crore as on March 31,



Chairman J&K Bank Mushtaq Ahmad presenting dividend cheque to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Mushtaq presents Rs 128.88 crore dividend cheques to CM Omar hopes J&K Bank would move extra-mile in fulfilling CSR

Excelsior Correspondent

2013 thereby registering a growth of 64%. He said the annual profits have more than doubled to Rs. 1055 crore as against Rs. 512 crore in March 2010.

The Chairman J&K Bank said the Bank has added 165 business units since October 2010 raising the number of branches to 6694. He said business branches have been opened in the far-flung, remote and un-bankable areas. He said ATM network has also been extended by adding 373 teller machines taking their total number to 682 from 309 in October 2010.

He said that with its focus on the overall development of the State, the Bank addresses the

issue of finance and employment in a big way and is the sole financier for the State Government's flagship schemes of Sher-i-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for Youth (SKEWPY). He said J&K Bank has so far financed 1784 units under initiative which involves an amount of Rs. 120.12 crore. He said that 410 Kissan Credit Cards have been issued by the Bank till June 30, 2013 across the State involving Credit disbursement of Rs. 2146 crore. He said Bank has also distributed 24000 Artisan Cards and disbursed Rs. 141 crore among various categories of artisans.

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