

BJP opposes talks with Pakistan

Antony retracts statement, blames Pak for killings

NEW DELHI, Aug 8:

Under sustained attack from the Opposition over his statement on the killing of five soldiers in Poonch sector, Defence Minister A K Antony today retracted from it and squarely blamed the Pakistan Army for the "brutal" act.

He also warned that the Tuesday incident will have "consequences" on India's behaviour on the Line of Control and on relations with Pakistan.

"It is now clear that the specialist troops of Pakistan Army were involved in this attack when a group from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) side crossed the LoC and killed our brave jawans," he said in the statement aimed at controlling the damage by his Tuesday's version.

The fresh statement by Defence Minister A K Antony in the Lok Sabha, amending his earlier controversial version, ensured peace with the main Opposition which expressed happiness that he has "accepted his mistake" and rectified it.

Antony, who faced oppo-

sition fury, especially the BJP, for the last two days, asserted that nobody should doubt the Government's resolve to uphold the sanctity of the LoC as also the capacity of armed forces and India's restraint should not be taken for granted.

He maintained that his statement on Tuesday about the involvement of "terrorists along with persons dressed in Pakistan Army uniform" in the killing of five soldiers on LoC in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir was based on information available at that time.

Since then the Chief of Army Staff has visited the area and gone into the details of the matter, he said.

"We all know that nothing happens from Pakistan side of LoC without support, assistance, facilitation and often, direct involvement of Pakistan Army," Antony said.

He also said "naturally, this incident will have consequences on our behaviour on the LoC and for our relations with Pakistan".

"Our restraint should not be

taken for granted; nor should the capacity of our Armed Forces and resolve of the Government to uphold the sanctity of the LoC ever be doubted," the Minister said.

Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj, immediately welcomed the revised statement, expressing happiness that the Defence Minister has "accepted his mistake" and rectified it.

"The Opposition supports your statement and we have been successful in saying in one voice that Pakistan cannot resort to such acts," she said, telling the Government that it should ensure that such a mistake is not repeated.

BJP had been targeting Antony alleging that he had given a clean chit to Pakistan Army and should apologise. It paralysed Parliament for the last two days.

Adopting a tough stance, Antony said the "brutal and unprovoked" attack on Indian side of the LoC in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir "outraged us all".

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30 Judicial Officers transferred in major reshuffle

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 8: In a major reshuffle in the judiciary, High Court today ordered transfers and postings of 30 Judicial Officers with immediate effect.

According to the order issued by Suresh Kumar Sharma, Registrar General of the High Court, Sanjay Dhar, Presiding Officer MACT, Jammu has been repatriated from deputation and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Leh vice Sanjay Parihar.

Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Principal District and Sessions Judge Ramban has been transferred and posted on deputation as Presiding Officer MACT, Jammu vice Sanjay Dhar. Rajesh Sekhri, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Reasi has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge Ramban vice Mohd Akram Chowdhary.

Romesh Kumar Wattal, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Udhampur vice M K Sharma. Sanjeev Kumar Bhagat, PO J&K Industrial Tribunal Labour Court has been repatriated from

deputation and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kulgam vice Mohan Singh Parihar.

Kishore Kumar Bhagat, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch has been transferred and posted on deputation as Presiding Officer, J&K Labour and Industrial Tribunal Bala Jyoti, President Divisional Consumers Protection Forum, Jammu has been repatriated from deputation and posted as Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Jammu against the vacant post.

Subash Chander Gupta, 2nd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu has been transferred and posted as 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar vice Sham Lal. Mohd Yousaf Wani, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Pulwama has been transferred and posted on deputation as President, Divisional Consumer Protection Forum, Srinagar against the vacant post.

Sanjay Parihar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Leh has been transferred and posted as Additional Sessions Judge, Anticorruption, Jammu vice Jaffer Hussain Beig, Mohd Ali Khan,

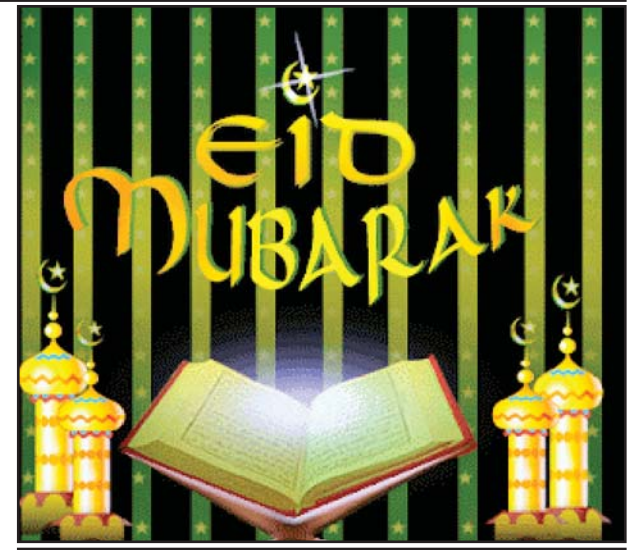
Principal District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Rajouri against the vacant post.

Nighat Sultana, Additional District Judge (Matrimonial Cases), Jammu has been transferred and posted as 2nd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu vice Subash Chander Gupta. Syed Tauqeer Ahmad, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge Budgam vice Shazad Azeem, who has been posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Pulwama vice Mohd Yousaf Wani.

Jaffer Hussain Beig, Additional Sessions Judge, Anticorruption Jammu has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch vice Kishore Kumar Bhagat. Mohan Singh Parihar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kulgam has been transferred and posted on deputation as President, Divisional Consumer Protection Forum, Jammu vice Bala Jyoti.

Sham Lal Lalhal, 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge,

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Special trains on Eid

NEW DELHI, Aug 8:

To clear extra rush on the occasion of Eid festival, Northern Railway will run special trains between Banihal and Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir for three days from tomorrow.

Special trains will be pressed into service between Baramulla and Banihal from tomorrow to facilitate passengers travelling during the festive period, said a senior Northern Railway official.

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Sharif sad over LoC killings

ISLAMABAD, Aug 8:

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today sought to assuage feelings in India by expressing "sadness" over the recent incidents on the LoC and "loss of precious human lives" and said would discuss steps to further build trust when he meets his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh in New York next month.

Chairing a meeting at the Foreign Office to review tensions in the wake of the killing of five Indian soldiers, Sharif said Pakistan and India should take effective steps to restore the ceasefire along

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Govt directs HoDs, DCs not to leave Hqrs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 8: The State Government today reiterated its direction to all Heads of Departments (HoDs), District Development Commissioners and other divisional and district level officers not to leave their Headquarters without prior permission of designated authorities.

A Government Order issued today by GAD Secretary MA Bukhari said these instructions of the Government were being reiterated to all concerned officers for strict compliance.

"The matter has been further reviewed and it has been decided to direct all District Development Commissioners not to leave their Headquarters in the eve of Eid," the Order said.

Land sinking near Ramkote

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 8: Panic gripped Kamala village in Ramkote area of tehsil Billawar in district Kathua today after a large piece of nearly 40-50 kanal of land has suddenly started sinking.

The development started during last mid night. The villagers noticed the land going down and sinking gradually besides the cracks developing on the walls of their houses and turned panicky. They continued to witness this development for hours together. On hearing this, a large number of people started assembling there. They noticed that nearly 300 mt wider patch of land was sinking

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SC notice on Ramban firing

NEW DELHI, Aug 8:

The Supreme Court today sought response of the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir Government on a PIL seeking judicial inquiry into the BSF firing in Ramban district of the State in which four persons were killed and several injured.

A bench of Chief Justice P Sathasivam and Justice Ranjana Desai issued notices to the Centre, the State Government and the DGP.

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Rs 1.97 lakh fake currency seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 8: Police today arrested a suspect and recovered Rs 1.97 lakh worth fake Indian currency from his possession at village Deri in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

Police identified the accused as Naseer Ahmad son of Mohammad Sharif, a resident of Deri, Mendhar.

On a tip off, police parties from Mendhar police station raided the house of Naseer Ahmed and arrested him along with Rs 1.97 lakh worth fake Indian currency.

Mendhar police was questioning the accused to ascertain source of fake Indian currency. A case has been registered against

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Maharashtra-based miller to make supplies; samples sent for analysis Consumers' long wait for subsidized sugar all set to be over next month

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 8: The long wait of the consumers for the subsidized sugar is going to end next month as the State Government has shortlisted Maharashtra-based miller through the competitive bidding for making supply of this essential commodity and forwarded samples of sugar for analysis at the reputed labs of the country.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that a total of three sugar importers/millers responded to the NIT (Notice Inviting Tenders) floated by the Jammu and Kashmir Government in the month of June and a Maharashtra-based miller qualified both the financial and technical bid for supply of 84,400 metric tonnes of sugar to the State every year.

"Now, the samples of sugar submitted by the miller are being put to analysis at the reputed labs of the country and if the analysis comes in the favour of the miller the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Department will prepare a memorandum to be placed before the Cabinet with prior consultation of Finance Department for final approval", sources said while disclosing that report of analysis will come within next 10 days following

which the papers will be prepared for the Cabinet.

Following the Cabinet approval, the CAPD will sign agreement with the miller and place orders for supply of sugar and hopefully this exercise would be completed during the current month itself so that from the next month consumers could get subsidized sugar, sources informed.

It is worthwhile to mention here that following sudden stoppage of levy sugar supply by the Food Corporation of India, the State Government constituted a high-level purchase committee for procurement of PDS sugar from open market. The committee headed by Administrative Secretary, CAPD, Mohd Abbas has now completed the entire exercise and remaining codal formalities would be completed on the receipt of analysis report.

In response to a question, sources said that Finance Department was required to be consulted before preparing Cabinet memorandum as financial burden in the form of duties and transportation of sugar from Maharashtra up to Jammu and Srinagar stores would have to be borne by the State Government. "The consumers will get sugar at a cost of Rs 13.50 per kilogramme on

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All involved in scam shall be punished: Cooperative Minister JAKFED Special Audit points to financial irregularities worth crores by top officials

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, Aug 8: Three members Enquiry Committee, which had been constituted by the State Government to conduct special audit of Jammu & Kashmir Cooperative Supply & Marketing Federation Limited (JAKFED) has unearthed a major scam worth crores and has established connivance of several top officials of the institution including the then Managing Director.

The report of the Enquiry Committee, which is in possession of EXCELSIOR had recently been submitted by Registrar Cooperative, Sudarshan Sharma to the Secretary, Cooperative Department. The Special Audit Report of the JAKFED for the year 2009-10 and 2011-12 has categorically pointed out to serious irregularities the functioning of the Department.

Confirming the submission of report of special audit, Minister for Cooperative, Dr

*Huge variation in bank accounts

Manohar Lal Sharma said, "The Report submitted by the three-member Committee is under examination of the Government and it has pointed to several irregularities committed by several top officials of the institution. We will make sure that the officials involved in the scandal, whether in service or retired are punished".

"I had myself ordered Special Audit of the JAKFED after ordering attachment of the then MD, Ravinder Gupta and had also personally brought the

matter to the notice of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah who had assured his full support to the investigation", he asserted.

Interestingly, record of JAKFED was also burnt in the fire that engulfed the two-storey wooden annex at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar on July 11. The Department is now working to reconstruct the record, which had been lost in the blaze.

The Enquiry Report has pointed to several financial

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Plot to kill soldiers hatched at PoK's Kathak school

* 5 ultras pushed back after firing

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 8: A plot to execute the killings of five Indian Army soldiers was hatched at Kathak Government School, falling between Mandola and Dera Sher Khan forward villages opposite Chakan-Da-Bagh sub sector in Poonch district last week during the visit of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jamat-ul-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Sayeed to the area, official sources said today.

Sources told the Excelsior that officers of Pakistan Army, Special Service Group (Moosa Company) and top militants of Border Action Team (BAT) comprising trained commandos

of LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfits had participated in the meeting during the visit of Hafiz Sayeed.

Sayeed had reportedly instigated the militant commanders to carry out action on the LoC even if they had to execute the act without support of Pakistan Army or commandos.

Confirming that the action by Pakistan Army, commandos and militants of LeT and JeM outfit was "pre-planned" and executed after receipt of the area, sources said the highly trained soldiers and militants were involved in the attack, which was evident from the fact that they returned to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) within five

to 10 minutes of the firing without being noticed by the troops from their forward posts.

"The fact that attack was over within few minutes was a clear indication that highly trained Pakistan Army soldiers, commandos and dreaded terrorists were involved in it," sources said pointing out that they had picked up the spot for laying ambush where they were at the position of advantage.

The "Group of 20" raiders in Pakistan uniform had split themselves at four places from where they fired at the area domination patrol of six Army jawans at 1 am on the intervening night of August 5 and 6 killing five of them on spot and

injuring another, they said.

They added that the raiders, who had entered about half kilometer inside the Indian territory, appeared to have conducted reconnaissance of the area more than once identifying the route taken by the area domination party during the night and the places from where they had to fire on them.

Sources said the meeting at Kathak Government school between Mandola and Dera Sher Khan areas of PoK opposite Chakan-Da-Bagh sub sector of Poonch appeared to have taken place early last week. The attack on Army was planned in a bid to demoralize the troops, who had not allowed any infiltration attempt to succeed this year on

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INSIDE	WEATHER
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Eid Mubarak

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