

## Cop killed at Anantnag, 3 weapons snatched Narrow escape for NC MLC; CRPF man killed, one injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: A National Conference (NC) leader and Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council, Shoukat Ahmad Gania, today had a

Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police was killed by militants in South Kashmir this afternoon at a point blank range.

DIG South Kashmir, Vijay Kumar told Excelsior that as Gania arrived in village Awanera

ahead with the vehicle to park it. As they were parking the vehicle, militants attacked them killing the driver and injuring a CRPF man. Militants also decamped with one Insas rifle of the CRPF constable and Carbine of the driver", Kumar said.

Militants escaped from the village leaving the two CRPF men in a pool of blood. Driver Raju Ram succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital while Bolu Ram has been shifted to Srinagar for treatment. His condition is stated to be critical.

Police and CRPF troops were rushed to the spot and Gania was escorted out of the village. Senior Police, CRPF and Army officers rushed to the spot and a massive operation was launched to nab the militants responsible for the attack.

The attack comes hours after militants killed an SOG man in a market place in the adjacent village of Arwani in South Kashmir district of Anantnag this afternoon.

The DIG South Kashmir said that SOG man was killed at a market place in village

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IGP Kashmir Abdul Gani Mir carries the coffin of killed SOG cop on Monday.

narrow escape when militants attacked his escort vehicle killing a para-military Central Reserve Police (CRPF) man and critically injuring the other in South Kashmir district of Shopian while a constable of Special Operations

in district Shopian to attend marriage of son of one Abdul Gani Bhat in the village, militants attacked his escort vehicle.

"The escort vehicle dropped the CRPF men at the residence of Bhat and driver Raju Ram and constable Bolu Ram went

## Objective of having nodal agency for major projects defeated 15 months after Cabinet nod, State Road Dev Corporation exists only in files

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 26: In what could be termed as mockery of the highest decision making body, Jammu and Kashmir State Road Development Corporation is existing only in the files of the Roads and Building (R&B) Departments during the past 15 months despite the same having been cleared by the State Cabinet. Due to this, the objective of nodal agency for executing major roads and allied infrastructure projects could not be achieved till date.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that in order to

give thrust to multifaceted growth in transport infrastructure, the State Cabinet on May 30, 2012 accorded sanction to establishment of first ever Jammu and Kashmir State Road Development Corporation. The proposal in this regard was worked out by the Public Works (R&B) Department in consultation with Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, who was also holding the portfolio of R&B at that time.

The State Road Development Corporation was supposed to promote surface infrastructure by taking up road works, including tunneling and appurtenant structures and take up projects on Build-Own Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate and Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease and Transfer (BOLT) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) as well as major projects entrusted by State and Central Governments, sources said.

Its objective was also to act as nodal agency of the State Government for execution of major roads and allied infrastructure projects, prepare and develop plans for the State road sector and identification and

selection of projects based upon economic, social, technical and commercial criteria.

Moreover, the establishment of Corporation was given nod by the Cabinet in order to encourage private sector participation in transport infrastructure, raise resources for the identified projects and undertake projects outside J&K either in joint venture or alone, sources informed.

While according nod to the establishment of Corporation, the Cabinet had observed that it (Corporation) will have the responsibility of attracting Viability Gap Funding from Union Ministry of Road and Transport and Planning Commission besides reducing dependence on State exchequer in respect of maintenance of State Highways and Major District Roads.

"However, all these objectives could not be achieved till date despite lapse of 15

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## 3 Pak Army men injured, 'Red Kathar' post destroyed

\* No let up in shelling for past 20 days

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 26: Three Pakistan Army personnel of 651 Mujahid Regiment were seriously injured as their three posts opposite Sabjian belt of Mandi sector in Poonch district were destroyed in retaliatory firing by the Army today while there was no let up in heavy exchange of firing and shelling between the two sides in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Official sources told the Excelsior that 651 Mujahid Regiment of Pakistan resorted to heavy firing and shelling in Sabjian belt of Mandi sector in Poonch district at 6 am targeting India's forward posts and civilian areas. The Pakistani troops rained bullets and mortar shells in one and a half hours long firing.

Indian troops gave an effective reply to the firing. A Pakistani post collapsed in retaliatory firing of the Indian Army in which all three Pakistan Army jawans, who were manning it, were seriously injured. Two ambulances were seen shifting injured Pakistani Army person-

nel to hospitals, sources said.

After Sabjian, Pakistan Army resorted to heavy firing at Garhi belt in Poonch sector at 12.15 pm today. Several mortars, rockets and bullets fired by the Pakistani troops landed very close to for-

ward Indian posts but there were no casualties or damage. Some of the mortar shells also landed in the forward villages.

Pakistan Army continued pounding of forward Army posts and civilian areas in Garhi belt of Poonch sector till 5 pm. Sources said Pakistan Army was more

concentrating on civilian areas as they were trying to force migration of the civil population as this could put pressure on Indian Army to stop retaliation.

However, the civilians in the forward villages were deter-



Army jawans retaliate Pakistan firing in Balakote sector.

mined not to migrate and stay in their houses to boost morale of the Indian Army irrespective of the fact that eight civilians have so far been injured in Pakistan firing and shelling—seven in Poonch district and one in Keri sector of Rajouri

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## Alert VDC member helps in recoveries

## Arms, explosives haul in Samba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Police today said it has thwarted a major terror plot by effecting a large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosive devices from Bai Nullah, about one kilometers from Jammu-Pathankote National Highway under the jurisdiction of Ghagwal police station in Samba district even as reports said that recent flash floods, triggered by heavy rains, have caused damage to 700-800 meters of three-tier border fencing along the International Border (IB) in Jammu sector.

Official sources said a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member Suresh Kumar spotted the consignment of weaponry along Bai Nullah in early hours of this morning and immediately sounded police.

Police parties from Samba rushed to the spot and seized the consignment. Police also called a Bomb Disposal Squad to the spot and destroyed the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) on spot

safely.

Recoveries included five Chinese pistols, six wireless sets (five of whom were in broken condition), four launcher shells, seven set antennas, three set dials, two loaded pistol magazines with 200 rounds, two IEDs and some accessories. The IEDs were in shape of tiffin and pipe bombs.



IEDs recovered at Bai Nullah in Samba on Monday.

IGP Jammu Rajesh Kumar, however, told the Excelsior that the consignment was an old one and appeared to have been washed away in the flood and reached Bai Nullah.

He said the consignment was not the fresh.

In the past few days, no infiltration attempt has been observed in Samba sector.

"The recoveries have derailed nefarious designs of militants and their supporters," sources said.

Sources said the militants might have dumped the consignment at an isolated area some-

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## 60 fresh PoK guests arrive

## People protest, stop cross-LoC bus in Poonch

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 26: While the border villagers in Poonch, who are under the grip of firing from across and facing shortage of other amenities, today stopped the Poonch-Rawalakot bus for over an hour and held protest demonstration, whereas, 60 fresh PoK guests arrived here via Uri and Chakkan-da-Bagh cross LoC points.

Not even single J&K resident boarded the Poonch-Rawalakot bus while just two Kashmiris left for Muzaffarabad in PoK from Srinagar via Uri. Nine J&K visitors, who were held up there in PoK after suspension of bus-service between the two sides also returned in today's bus to Poonch.

Reports said when 31 PoK residents were returning in the bus from Poonch to Rawlakote via Chakkan-da-Bagh LoC point, villagers from Kahri Karmara stopped the bus and started protest demonstration at around 10.30 am. They raised barricades on the road. The villagers alleged that there was fear among the villagers due to the prevailing situation. Moreover, they were facing water and power crisis. The condition of the road was also worst. The Government was least bothered about the sufferings of the border people.

Some district officers including a DySP were also accompanying the bus. Despite repeated request by the PoK visitors, they did not allow the bus to move towards

LoC point. Later, with persuasion of officers, the bus and other vehicles were allowed to move at around 12.00 noon.

A senior officer in the District Administration when contacted said that people of this border belt had their own local issues related to shortage of power and water besides pitiable condition of a link road. They were pressing for their issues and protesting on the road. However, they were assured that their issues will be looked into. It is pertinent to mention here that on last Monday also, the bus was stopped for about 15-20 minutes by these villagers near Chakkan-da-Bagh.

Meanwhile, a total 80 persons crossed sides at the Chakkan-da-Bagh cross LoC point. 40 fresh PoK residents

arrived here besides nine Indian returnees. 31 PoK residents returned to their homes after their stay here. Some of them had been held up here. Not even single a J&K resident crossed over to PoK via this LoC point today.

Twenty fresh guests from PoK arrived here while only two crossed over to other side of the Line of Control (LoC) at Kaman post, in Uri sector this afternoon. As many as 41 returnees also crossed sides.

An official spokesman said 20 PoK guests, including seven women and two children, arrived at Kaman post after crossing the Aman Setu, peace bridge on foot in Uri sector in north Kashmir.

Two Kashmiri residents,

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## LS passes Food Security Bill

NEW DELHI, Aug 26:

After much delay and uncertainty, the landmark Food Security Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha today which seeks to provide cheap foodgrains to 82 crore people in the country, ushering in the biggest programme in the world to fight hunger.

The ambitious bill was adopted by the House through a voice vote after a combined discussion on the measure and a statutory resolution seeking to disapprove the ordinance promulgated on July 5. Over 300 amendments moved by the opposition were rejected.

The legislation was passed after a day-long debate during which Congress President Sonia Gandhi, during her maiden speech

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## Lt Gen Chachra visits Gurez

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Chief of Northern Command of Army, Lt General Sanjiv Chachra today visited Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez sector of Kashmir valley and interacted with troops at a Rashtriya Rifles sector headquarters in Bandipora district.

The Northern Chief of Army was briefed about anti-infiltration measures put in place along the LoC. He was told that the militants are making efforts to infiltrate into Kashmir valley but the troops deployed at the LoC have foiled their designs.

Army commander's visit assumed importance in the backdrop of the increased number of incidents of infiltration attempts by militants from across the LoC and ongoing ceasefire violations.

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## Petition in Kitchloo case dismissed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: In the much publicized case of the then Minister of State for Home Sajad Ahmed Kitchloo allegedly slapping the Chief Executive Officer of Kishtwar Development Authority, Principal Sessions Judge, Kishtwar, Pawan Dev Kotwal today dismissed the revision petition filed by SHO Police Station Kishtwar against the order of Chief Judicial Magistrate, who has directed the police to register FIR and conduct the investigation as per CrPC.

After hearing Public Prosecutor R K Goswami and going through the revision petition, Principal Sessions Judge observed, "the law laid down by Full Bench of Allahabad High Court square-

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## SC queries J&K on compensation

NEW DELHI, Aug 26:

The Supreme Court today took strong note of an order of Jammu and Kashmir Government which provides for differential compensations to the people from the State and outsiders who are victims of riots or other similar incidents.

"You (J&K Govt) file a detailed affidavit. You cannot be justified, if you are giving more to somebody and less to somebody else," a bench of Chief Justice P Sathasivam, justices Ranjana Prakash Desai and Ranjan Gogoi said.

The court's observation came during the hearing of a PIL seeking a direction to the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir to provide adequate security and safe passage to the pilgrims stranded due to curfew in Kishtwar where communal clashes took place on the day

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## Fill vacancies in GMCs: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Jammu and Kashmir High Court today directed the Health Department authorities to fill up the posts of 40 per cent quota of faculty members lying vacant in Government Medical Colleges in Srinagar and Jammu.

A division bench of Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir passed the directions after examining affidavits submitted by Commissioner/Secretary Health and Medical Education Department and Additional Secretary of the same department over the vacancies in both Medical Colleges.

In the affidavits, it has been mentioned that out of 55 posts of Professors, 43 are vacant; out of 63 posts of Associate Professors, 31 are vacant; 52 posts of Assistant Professors are vacant out of

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

## 31 X-Ens transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: The Government today ordered transfers and postings of 31 In-charge Executive Engineers in Hydraulic Wing with immediate effect K C Gupta has been transferred from Irrigation Division-I, Jammu and posted in JKSPDC while Mohammad Riyasat Khan is transferred from PHE Division, Budgam and he shall report to Chief Engineer PHE, Jammu.

K K Gupta is transferred from Irrigation Division, Tral and he shall report to Chief Engineer, I&FC Jammu.

Ghulam Qadir Bhat is transferred from LAWDA and posted at

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## Revenue officials booked for land scam

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Aug 26: Police has registered a case against Naib Teshildar, Girdawar and Patwari Halqa Reasi for selling Government land illegally for their pecuniary gains.

SSP Reasi, Raghubir Singh said that on the receipt of a specific complaint that revenue documents of Government land bearing Khasra No.1075 situated at village Mari was mislabeled by the officials of the Revenue Department deliberately, the DDC Reasi constituted a team for demarcation of Government land.

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\*The Union Government promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on 5th July 2013. The bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 7th August 2013.\*