

# Sumbal killings expose Omar-led Govt: Mufti

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 30: Former Chief Minister and PDP Patron Mufti Mohammed Sayeed has alleged that killings of two innocent youth at Markundal in Sumbal has once again exposed the Omar led Government and sorry state of affairs prevailing in the State.

Addressing a party workers convention at Yaripora in Kulgam today, Mufti said that the 'firmans' like the one that require permits for locals to visit Pahalgam and Sonmarg only deepens alienation and reinforces feelings of disempowerment. Describing the firing of security forces as unwarranted the PDP leader condemned the incident. He said the present dispensation has no control on its forces.

The PDP leader alleged that on the one hand people of the State were going out of their

way to give democratic process a chance but on the other hand more wounds were caused to them by agencies of the State. He said the State was presenting a picture of lawlessness where everybody, whether an unknown gunman or a security personnel entrusted with the duty of protecting lives can get away with atrocities. PDP is of the view that security forces have to be relocated from the civilian areas in Valley and the process of gradual demilitarization should start.

Mufti Sayeed further said that as long as justice eludes the aggrieved people, the impression of peace and calm will remain deceptive and fragile. "It seems the rights enshrined in the constitution of the country remain restricted beyond the borders of the State and our fight will continue till the people of J&K receive justice and fair deal", Mufti maintained.

While expressing solidarity with the bereaved families of Irfan and Irshad, the two youth who lost their lives in today's incident Mufti said the tragedy has devastated two more families and no words can compensate their loss. He said the PDP has for many years been struggling for revoking laws that provide immunity to personnel responsible for such avoidable violence.

Referring to dictat that anyone wanting to visit Pahalgam or Sonmarg should carry a permit, Mufti said even the British did not practice such apartheid. He said such fooling 'firmans' only expose the deep insecurity of the present rulers.

Senior party leaders Abdul Gaffar Sofi, Abdul Majid Padder, Nazir Ahmed Laway, Manzoor Ahmed Zargar, Ghulam Hassan Sofi, Sheraz Bhat and Dr R K Pardesi also spoke on the occasion.



Outgoing GOC-in-C Lt Gen K T Parnaik at the farewell function.

## Northern Command bids adieu to Gen Parnaik

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, June 30: Northern Command today bid a fond adieu to their GOC-in-C, Lt Gen KT Parnaik, on his retirement after an illustrious career of 41 years. General Parnaik took over the reins of this Operational Command on January 1, 2011 in the wake of a period of protests in the Valley.

He conceptualized and executed a realistic and practical strategy in conjunction with the Civil Administration, State Police, CRPF and other Intelligence agencies resulting in relative peace in the region for three consecutive Summers. The General Officer contributed significantly in the initiation of a number of developmental projects for the welfare of the people

under Operation Sadbhavana specially to channelise the energy of Youth for constructive and purposeful activities like vocational training and sports, truly reflecting his genuine love for the Awam. In his farewell message, the Army Commander complimented all ranks for their immense professionalism, steadfastness, dedication and loyalty.

He also thanked the Civil administration for their excellent synergy with the Armed Forces. "The Honour and Integrity of our Great Nation rests on your shoulders and the strength of your resoluteness. I am sanguine that you shall continue to do the Country proud," he told his Command.



Provincial President NC, Devender Singh Rana addressing congregation at Satguru Sant Kabir Sabha on Sunday.

## Eschew tendencies of hatred, work for building harmonious society: Rana to people

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: Highlighting universal appeal in the teachings of Sant Kabir, Provincial President National Conference Devender Singh Rana on Sunday said that his eternal message of love, peace and compassion holds more relevance now than ever before because of greed, hatred and intolerance inflicting society at large.

Addressing a congregation at Satguru Sant Kabir Sabha at Nandpur in Miran Sahib near here this afternoon, the Provincial President said that the great saint had clear understanding of the causes and cures of human sufferings and devoted his entire life to bring harmony by spreading the message of love and compassion.

"Sant Kabir did not belong to a particular area, community or age, as he envisioned beyond the myopic barriers of caste, community or color and worked for the entire humanity", Mr Rana said, adding that his teachings will keep enlightening mankind to attain

peace and tranquility.

The function was organised by Sant Kabir Sabha and those present included Satpal Bhagat, President Sant Kabir Sabha Nandpur, Parshotam Lal Bhagat, Dr Surjeet Bhagat, Dev Raj Bhagat, B. D Bhagat, Prof Garu Ram Bhagat MLA R. S Pura, Th Kashmir Singh, T.S Tony, Romesh Motan, Surinder Singh Bunty, Balwinder Singh, Raj Kumar, Rohit Bali, Daljeet Sharma, GD Bhagat, Prof Chuni Lal Bhagat and others.

Referring to various facets of the spiritually blessed life of Sant Kabir, the Provincial President said that the great saint envisioned of a classless society where everyone had equal opportunities to grow as good human beings. He said the message of the great saint contains hope for common people to realize the ultimate truth of this world.

The Provincial President urged the people to eschew the tendencies of hate and work for the over-

all good of the society. He said harmony in the society will remain a distant dream as long as people remain self-centered and in the confines of caste, creed and color. "The best way of paying tribute to Sant Kabir would be by following his preaching by sharing each others' joys and sorrows", he said and made a fervent appeal to the people for working towards realizing the goal of just social order where everybody gets equal chances of progress and prosperity.

Later, the Provincial President inaugurated 'Satinder Studio' set up by upcoming singing star Satinder Sahanu, who has made his mark as an amateur singer by establishing his talent in the famous tele-show 'Chote Ustad' on Star Plus and "Chooona Hai Aasman", sponsored by Jammu and Kashmir Police. He wished the budding artist success and hoped that he will inspire youngsters of his age to make their mark in chosen careers alongside pursuing academics.



A scene from the play 'Firouti' directed by Neeraj Kant, performed at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

## 'Firouti' staged in Natrang's Sunday Theatre Series

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: A new play 'Firouti' originally written by Uday Shankar Bhat and directed by Neeraj Kant was presented here today in Natrang's weekly Theatre Series 'Sunday Theatre'.

The play opens at the home of one 'Baisakha Ram' where all the family members are very tense and 'Baisakha Ram' himself has turned mad as someone had kidnapped his son and is demanding a huge amount to set him free.

Miser to the core, Baisakha is not ready to pay a single penny no matter what happens to his son. His family and well wishers try to make him agree to pay the money as money and material is far less important than the relations, that too akin. But he pays no heed.

His 'Munim' is also much concerned about his reactions after receiving the threat letter. He even tries to suggest him different resources from where he arrange and can pay off the money and get his son released, but of no use.

At the end the son comes home but the happiness of Baisakha Ram gets evaporated on knowing that all the amount of morning collections has been paid to get him back. He turns unconscious but the other family members are happy to find their family member back in

the home.

Ashwani Bali as 'Baisakha Ram', Sajra Qadir as 'Maa', Mohit Sharma as 'Pathan', Uplaksh Singh Kotwal as 'Munim', Mohd Yaseen as 'Beta' and Vineet Sharma as 'Beti'—all performed their respective roles with professional flair.

Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant and Music was scored by Sachin Saini. The show was anchored by Rahul Singh.

## Youth held for rape

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, June 30: The police has arrested a youth on the charge of rape on a minor girl in tehsil Mendhar of district Poonch.

The accused identified as Mohd Ikhlak (22), son of Mehmood Ahmed, resident of Chhajla village was booked by police under FIR No. 91/2013 U/S 376 RPC. The accused allegedly raped a minor girl, student of class 9th from same area and made her pregnant. The parents came to know about the matter on seeing condition of the girl. The girl revealed that the youth had threatened her not to open mouth against anybody. The parents lodged a report with police. The accused was then arrested and a case registered against him.

# Govt fails to provide any assistance: Family No clue of 3 Jammu pilgrims in Uttrakhand

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: The relatives of three missing people of Jammu who had left for holy pilgrimage of Kedarnath on June 9 from here but did not return till date have accused the J&K Government of not rendering any help and assistance to them in locating their missing family members.

Anil Gupta, who along with his other relatives were camping in Dehradun capital of Uttarakhand for about a week to get any clue of his father, Sham Lal Gupta, mother Neelam Gupta of Sarwal and his Mama Ji, Ramesh Chander Gupta from Akhnoor who had left for the holy pilgrimage of Kedarnath from here on June 9 and were supposed to return back on June 20 did not return after the cloud burst and flash floods that lashed the Kedarnath on June 16 and 17 said they failed to get any assistance or help from State administration.

Anil said that his parents had performed darshan at Kedarnath on June 15 and they telephoned them from the holy shrine on the same day at 2-15 pm but since then they had no contact with them. The family was to stay for a night at Kedarnath in Maharashtra Mangal hotel and return on June 16 morning to Govri Kund, he added.

He said from the travel agency employees they came to know that other pilgrims who were associating the family had left Kedarnath for Gouri Kund in the morning of June 16 and were trapped at Rambara due to heavy rain fall but later there whereabouts are not known.

Anil said he along with his other relatives including his uncle left for Uttarakhand on June 18 and enquired at Dehradun, Rishi Kesh and Haridwar about them. "We visited the Railway Station, Airport and Bus stands at all these places but could not get any clue of our family members", he added.

He said it is surprising that no help and support came to them from State Government



Three Jammu pilgrims who are still missing in Kedarnath.

while all the other States had established camps, deputied their senior officers and police men to assist the people in locating their kith and kin , there was no such stall from the State Government of J&K whom they could approach for help.

He said even these States had organized free langars for the people. There was no expectation from the Uttarakhand Government as it is paralyzed totally following the natural calamity.

He said "we also registered a FIR at Police Station Rishi Kesh on June 26 and later returned next day as the administration announced that the rescue operations have been suspended for two more days due to inclement weather".

It may be recalled that Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker had turned the number of dead in the recent calamity as 10,000 as many people are still missing and their relatives have no clues about them.

## Defence PRO awarded Appreciation Card

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal DC Kumaria complimented Shiv Narayan Acharya, Photographic Officer and Officiating Defence Public Relations Officer, Jammu at Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi

the Air Warriors" on the issue of renewable energy. The VCAS was also presented a comprehensive report of Rescue & Relief mission by Air Force in J&K.

Air Marshal Kumaria, who is retiring today, also applauded the yeomen services of the officiating Defence PRO



Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal D C Kumaria awarding S N Acharya, Officiating Defence PRO, Jammu.

## HC's directive to Govt on Jagti township power crisis

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: High Court has directed the State Government to ensure supply of electricity to the Jagti township in accordance with the rules.

This direction was passed in a petition filed by the residents of Kashmiri migrants' camp at Jagti mentioning that Power Development Department was adopting discriminatory attitude towards the township.

Advocate Anil Sethi appearing for the petitioners submitted that following the previous order of the High Court directing the PDD not to make any recovery from the migrants on account of electricity dues, the department started reducing power supply.

"This is the fundamental right of the petitioners to get electricity as is being supplied to other residents of Jammu and for the same period", Advocate Sethi submitted.

Accordingly, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey issued notice to Chief Secretary, Relief Commissioner, Commissioner Secretary PDD and Chief Engineer PDD returnable within two weeks.

"In the meanwhile, the respondents shall ensure supply of electricity to the petitioners in accordance with rule governing the subject", the High Court said.

## No restrictions for tourists to visit Pahalgam, Sonmarg

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 30: The Tourism Department today said that there are no restrictions for the locals and tourists to visit tourist resorts like Pahalgam and Sonmarg and no passes or permissions are required for the purpose.

A spokesman of the Tourism Department said that no restrictions have been imposed by the authorities and locals and tourists other than yatries are free to visit these places as per their wish. The spokesman, however, maintained that instructions are only to regulate the movement of Amarnath yatries who are not registered for yatra on particular routes.

The spokesman further said that in case of any difficulty at different check points, the tourists/ locals can contact the Tourism Department on helpline number 18001031060 or TRC phone number 0194-2452691 for assistance. No passes or permissions are required by locals/tourists to visit Sonmarg or Pahalgam.



Protesters raising slogans after blocking Janipur-New Plot road on Sunday.

## People protest against power crisis, warn to launch agitation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 30: People today held a protest demonstration against the Government and the Power Development Department (PDD) for irregular power supply in various areas of the Paloura.

The irate residents of Paloura (Ward number 59 and 60) led by Ex-corporator Ashok Singh Manhas assembled near Power Station, Janipur and lodged their protest against the Government

and PDD for not supplying regular power to various areas of Paloura. Later, the protestors blocked the busiest Janipur-New Plot road, due to which vehicular movement came to standstill for around half an hour.

The protestors were raising slogans against the Government and the PDD for power curtailments in the various areas of Paloura particularly in Ward Number 59 and 60.

Addressing the gathering, Manhas alleged that the Government and PDD have compelled the people of the Jammu region to come on roads and hold protest against them.

"Long duration power cuts have made the life of people miserable and the senior citizens, ailing people and small kids are most affected", he alleged.

He said that the transformers in Ward No 59 and 60 were damaged few days back, and till date they were not repaired by the Department, compelling them to adopt agitational path.

The increasing power curtailments have also led to shortage of drinking water, thus adding to the woes of people, he said. The protestors warned to launch agitation against the Government and PDD, if they failed to supply uninterrupted power at the earliest.

Later on the intervention of the senior police officials and assurance by the senior PDD officials, the protestors dispersed.

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