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Militant infrastructure across LoC intact: GOC

Infiltration bid foiled in Macchil, 4 militants killed

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 30: Army today foiled an infiltration bid in Macchil sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district killing 4 militants while the death toll in infiltration attempts since yesterday has gone upto 6.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's 15 Corps, Lt General Gurmeet Singh told a press conference here that two militants were killed in Macchil sector of Kupwara early today. However, a Defence spokesman this evening said that two more militants have been killed in the operation taking the death toll in the Macchil encounter to 4.

The GOC said that alert troops spotted a group of 5-6 militants near the LoC early today and they challenged them result-

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Army soldiers carry a heavy weapon to take part in an encounter at Macchil sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday. — Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

Issues of migrants, refugees, terror victims

PSC seeks written response from J&K Govt

Avtar Bhat

NEW DELHI, July 30: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs led by former BJP national president and MP Venkaiah Naidu has asked the J&K Government to submit in writing the reasons for delay in settlement of issues of Kashmiri migrants, West Pak refugees, PoK refugees and terrorism affected people of Jammu region.

These directions were issued by the Committee, which held a detailed meeting here today with various representatives of Kashmiri migrant organisations, West Pak refugees, PoK refugees and terrorism affected people from Jammu region to ascertain their problems.

The Standing Committee members including former Deputy Prime Minister and senior BJP leader, L K Advani, former Railway Minister, Lalu Prasad Yadav, BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Congress MP Naveen Jindal and Dr V Metray of AIADMK and others have asked the State Government to submit in writing that what steps were taken to ameliorate the lot of these people so far.

The Government side in the meeting was led by Union Home Secretary, Anil Goswami while Revenue Secretary J&K Government, Vinod Koul, Revenue and Rehabilitation Commissioner, R K Pandita and Revenue Secretary to Delhi Government and Divisional Commissioner Delhi and other officers attended it.

The meeting was also attended by Prof Bhim Singh, supremo of National Panthers Party.

Official sources said that the Standing Committee members first met the representatives of the terrorism affected people of Jammu region led by BJP leader Bali Bhagat, who is also the convener of Tehreek-e-Insaf. He was accompanied by another BJP leader and co-convener of Tehreek-e-Insaf Vibodh Gupta. This was followed by the meeting with representatives of PoK refugees led by Dr Narinder Singh, who was accompanied by Ashok Khajuria Poonchi, another leader of the organisation and the representatives of West Pak refugees led by Labha Ram Gandhi.

The delegation later met the representatives of Kashmiri migrants to ascertain their views on various issues confronting the displaced people from Valley including the implementation of PM's rehabilitation package.

Talking to Excelsior, PoK refugees representative, Dr Narinder Singh said that while bringing the problems of PoK refugees in the notice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee they were asked to prevail upon the Government to settle the long standing issues faced by these refugees since 1947.

He said the Committee members were told that 50,000 people were killed in 1947 by Pakistani desperados in 1947 aggression and no compensation was paid to these families till date by the Government.

He demanded registration of PoK refugees settled all over the country be made and they be given State subject certificates, the representatives of PoK refugees be elected on eight seats out of 24 Assembly seats

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Indian born Mamnoon is Pak Prez

ISLAMABAD, July 30:

Indian born Pakistani businessman Mamnoon Hussain, a close aide of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was today elected as the 12th President of Pakistan after he trounced his lone opponent in a one-sided contest.

Hussain, 73, will be sworn in on September 9 at the presidential palace due to be vacated by incumbent Asif Ali Zardari, who is stepping down at the end of his five-year term.

Hussain emerged as a clear winner in the contest with ex-judge Wajihuddin Ahmed of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, state media

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Taliban frees 250 Pak prisoners

PESHAWAR, July 30:

In a brazen attack, heavily-armed Taliban terrorists, donning police uniforms, attacked a high-security prison in northwest Pakistan, freeing nearly 250 prisoners, many of them hard-core militants, and killing 14 people including six Shia inmates.

The gunmen launched their attack around midnight with a series of heavy explosions before firing rocket propelled grenades and machine guns, a senior police official said.

During the attack on Central Prison in Dera Ismail Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering the restive South

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Leh not heading towards UT: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that the State carved out on the basis of agitations could act as incentive to those who are agitating for similar demands from other parts of the country.

Omar told reporters on the sidelines of a function held at Srinagar's Amar Singh College that giving in to the demand of creating a separate Telangana State in the backdrop of an agitation was a dangerous thing.

"An impression is going out that an agitation can lead to creation of a new State, be it in Bundelkhand, Maharashtra, Gorkhaland or in our

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

UPA approves Telangana State

NEW DELHI, July 30:

Shedding its dithering, the Congress and the UPA tonight unanimoulsy decided to create Telangana State out of Andhra Pradesh, a momentous decision that came in the face of stiff resistance from leaders from non-Telangana region.

The Congress Working Committee, the highest decision-making body, decided to recommend to the Central Government to form the 29th State which will comprise 10 districts.

Hyderabad, considered the crowning jewel of the Telangana region, will be the joint capital of the newly-proposed State and the other regions--Rayalaseema and Andhra--for a period of 10 years.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

3 minors succumb to injuries

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, July 30: Three minors, who were seriously injured in cylinder blast at Maitra, succumbed to their injuries at SMHS, Srinagar today, while the condition of seven others including two traffic cops was stated to be critical.

As per reports, ten persons including two traffic cops were injured in the cylinder blast in a house of Mohammad Yaseen, son of Ghulam Mohammad in Maitra near here yesterday.

All the injured were shifted to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar and later referred to SMHS, Srinagar.

At SMHS Hospital, Nazia (6) and Zoya (4), daughters of Shabir

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

2 held for SPO killing

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: Police have arrested two persons from Sopore town in connection with the killing of an SPO at Chankhan, Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Sources said that two persons have been arrested for killing Mudasir Ahmad Dar of Sofi Hamam Chankhan Sopore on July 28 outside his residence.

Sources identified the two arrested persons as Asif Darson son of Ghulam Hassan Dar of Mumkak Batpura and Auqib Ramzan son of Mohd Ramzan of Sangrampora, Batpura.

They said that some arms and ammunition was also recovered from their possession.

However, their family members said that they have no link with the killing of the SPO.

DB directive to Div Com, DC Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: High Court has treated as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) a letter written to the Chief Justice whereby serious allegations have been leveled against CEO Katra Development Authority regarding illegal constructions around the upcoming Railway Station at Katra. In the PIL, Division Bench comprising Justice Virender Singh and Justice Ali Mohd Magrey today issued directions to the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Reasi.

After going through the contents of the letter, the DB observed,

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Newspapers promoting secessionism to be deprived of advts

Cabinet likely to give nod to new Advertisement Policy

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 30: State Cabinet, which is meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar tomorrow morning, is likely to give nod to the new Advertisement Policy prepared by the Information Department. It will also take decision on the proposal of Health and Medical Education Department regarding inclusion of nine items of essential expenditure in the Revolving Fund.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that the ever-increasing number of newspapers has become a cause of concern for the Department of Information as after completing one year of publication the newspapers approach the department for empanelment for advertisements.

"Due to this there has been a mismatch in budgetary provision for advertisements and the actual requirement of funds by the department and given the prevailing situation any further addition in the number of newspapers will worsen the situation", sources said while disclosing that there are 622 newspapers of different periodicity----332 from Jammu and 290 from Kashmir. As of now, 375 newspapers are approved for Government advertisements with the Directorate of Information.

In the new Advertisement Policy, which has been prepared by the Director Information in consultation with the department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Department of Information has proposed to increase the minimum period of consideration of newspaper for advertisement from existing one year to three years, sources informed. They said that minimum period of waiting in case of change in periodicity is also being increased.

"A departmental committee headed by the Director Information with provincial head of the Department and other officers dealing with distribution of advertisements as its members, will periodically review and update the list of newspapers for the purpose of advertisements as per the new criteria", sources privy to the policy said.

Those newspapers which act in a way prejudicial to the unity and integrity of the country and the State; publish inflammatory materials likely to foment communal disharmony, regional tension and promote secessionism; indulge in the publication of obscene material violating public decency and moral values and violate journalistic code as enunciated by the Press Council of India will not be approved for the advertisements, sources said.

Moreover, under the new

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Shant Manu likely to be new Div Com

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: State Cabinet is likely to order posting of Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Shant Manu as new Divisional Commissioner of Jammu.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Government has decided to appoint Shant Manu as new head of Jammu province, the post of which has fallen vacant due to the superan-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

'Media magnifies minor problems'

Unpredictable law & order hurdle in attracting investors: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the unpredictable law and order situation in the State was the biggest impediment in attracting investors.

"The biggest burden, they (investors) consider in this regard, is the unpredictable law and order situation in the State," Omar said during an interaction with students of Amar Singh College here.

He said shutdowns and incidents like Gool firing, which marred peace and tranquillity, made investors apprehensive about launching business projects in the State, particularly in Kashmir valley.

Omar said import of raw materials from outside the State and exporting the finished goods from the State to the outside markets also made businessmen hesitant to invest.

The Chief Minister said another major disadvantage is the 'image' of the State being presented by the media to the outside world.

"When media magnifies even minor law and order problems and smaller disturbances, which otherwise exist in every part of the world, out of proportion, the image of the State progressing towards peace and development gets tarnished," he said.

Omar said his Government, however, is making all out efforts to provide secure, productive and beneficial environment for outside investors to be partners in the economic development of the State.

"At the end of the day, businessmen count profits and this is the only objective they have to make investment in any part of the world," he said, adding that for this, they require calm and peaceful atmosphere which has received severe jolt during the 25 years of disturbance.

Omar impressed upon the youth to rely on their potential and ability to revolutionise the State's economy and become agents of socio-economic transformation.

"How long the State would wait for outside big businesses to invest here? We have to steer our economy on our own terms and conditions and by our own means," he said.

Omar said his Government was making efforts to rope in outside investors to partner in economic growth and employment generation in the State and also encouraging locals in a big

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Amarnath pilgrim injured in stoning dies

Protests rock Sunderbani, Rajouri; road blocked

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 30: The public in Rajouri and Sunderbani areas held massive demonstration and blocked busy Jammu-Poonch highway for over six hours in protest against the death of Shri Amarnath pilgrim hailing from Sunderbani town, who was injured in stone pelting on yatra convoy bus near Awantipora in Srinagar by some miscreants few days back.

Soon after the news of death of pilgrim Ravi Kant Sharma (42), son of Durga Dass, resident of Ward No. 2, Sunderbani in SKIMS, Soura (Srinagar), reached his home town Sunderbani this afternoon, the people started gathering in the main market and the shopkeepers also downed their shutters. A strong crowd of the locals then announced 'bandh' and moved towards the main Jammu-Poonch highway and raised barricades at around 2 pm.

With this the traffic on both sides of the busy highway came to a grinding halt. The irate protesters raised slogans against Omar Abdullah and his Government and demanded arrest of the accused responsible for the murder of the pilgrim. More and more people from the adjoining villages started joining the protest and its volume went on increasing. SHO Sunderbani Devinder Katoch rushed to the spot. Later, Additional SP Nowshera Parshotam Sharma and SDM Nowshera Rajinder Khajuria and Tehsildar Sunderbani also rushed to the spot and tried to convince the agitating public. But they refused to lift dharna from road and culminate protest.

A large number of activists of Vishav Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, BJP and others irrespective of their party affiliations assembled at the site. The agitators were demanding Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia/ relief in favour of victim's family and Government job for at least two members. It was also announced to observe complete bandh in Sunderbani town tomorrow.

The body of the deceased will reach his home town from Srinagar during midnight today. Ravi Kant, belonged to a very poor family of Sunderbani. He was 'Rehri' vendor and used to live in one room house. He is survived by a minor girl and two sons. The family had no other source of income.

A large number passengers and even the Army vehicles remained stranded on the road for hours together. Later DIG Rajouri-Poonch also reached the spot and continued dialogue with the agitating people till late

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Railways confirm Aug deadline will be missed

Gool incident casts shadow on Katra rail line

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 30: The Gool incident of July 18 has cast its shadow on commissioning of much awaited railway line to holy town of Katra, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji shrine in Reasi district, whose launch, which was earlier scheduled latest by August end, has been deferred till October.

Trouble created by the local people in Gool followed by security forces firing that led to four fatal casualties and injuries to 42 others has frightened skill labour, which comes from Jharkhand and West Bengal, which left home fearing for their lives after the incident while the labour, which had gone to their houses for few days, has delayed their return, official sources said.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Construction Division of Railways, Bhagwan Dass Garg told the Excelsior that the Railways staff was on the job 24x7 to complete left out work on Udhampur-Katra railway track as early as possible but admitted that skilled labour has become a problem in view of Gool incident.

``Though the Gool incident has nothing to do in Udhampur and Katra, which were completely peaceful, the outside labour didn't understand topography of the State. As skilled labour mostly comes from Jharkhand and West Bengal, some of them left after the incident while those, who had already gone on leave, have delayed their return,'' he said, adding the Railways was expecting return of the skilled labour in the next few days.

Bhagwan Dass said the construction of tunnel No. 1, which was the major problem on Udhampur-Katra track, has been completed and the track was being laid now. Only 2.5 to 3 kilometers work for laying of track inside the tunnel has been left while rest of the track has been laid, he added.

Sources said the Railways Construction Division was confident that the work would gain momentum with the return of skilled labour from Jharkhand and West Bengal and the Railways would be able to commission much awaited Udhampur-Katra rail track during Navratra falling in the month of October this year.

Taking rail line to Katra was quite significant as 25,000 to 30,000 pilgrims reach the holy town daily for pilgrimage of Mata Vaishno Devi ji shrine. Sometimes, the number goes as high as 40,000 to 45,000.

The ballast-less track is being laid on the Udhampur-

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

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