

Zubin Mehta mesmerises audience at Shalimar

I was waiting for this moment all my life: Zubin

Fayaz Bukhari

SHALIMAR GARDEN, SRINAGAR, Sept 7: The conductor of the Bavarian State Orchestra Zubin Mehta said this evening that it was his life time wish to perform in Kashmir before he mesmerised the audience by most popular and best known western classical music compositions in the Mughal era 17th century terraced Shalimar Garden in Srinagar on the bank of Dal lake in the backdrop of Zabarwan hills, under the shade of majestic Chinars.

Setting the tone, the 77 year Music maestro in his brief address to the audience before his performance said: "I am very happy. I was waiting for this moment all my life. And everyone will agree with me that this is where it should be."

The famed conductor promised that he will perform next



Zubin Mehta directs and Abhay Rustom Sopori performs during the Ehsaas-e-Kashmir music concert in Srinagar on Saturday.

Kashmir. All Kashmiris, not selected few will be invited. We only want to do good. Music will do it in a Stadium in friends everywhere, all critics, to all Kashmiris. God bless them all.

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All 11 Ministers meet on LAHDC Kargil

Cong puts up united face, seeks cancellation of nomination order

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, Sept 7: Putting up a united face on the issue of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, all 11 Ministers of the Congress belonging to both the factions met in Srinagar today for one and a half hours under the leadership of PCC (I) chief Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz and decided to take their fight to logical conclusion.

The meeting of all 11 Congress Ministers held at the

residence of Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand unanimously decided to wait for response of the National Conference on their demand for rescinding the Government order nominating four NC leaders as Councilors to LAHDC Kargil before deciding next course of action.

Party insiders told the Excelsior that the Congress leadership had yesterday summoned four party Ministers, who were away in New Delhi and Jammu to Srinagar to join today's meeting to put up a united

show and put pressure on its Alliance partners-the National Conference to immediately withdraw the nomination order, which had tilted majority in LAHDC Kargil in favour of the NC.

The meeting started at the residence of Tara Chand at 1.30 pm and lasted one and a half hours after all 4 Ministers reached Srinagar from New Delhi and Jammu.

This was for the second consecutive day that the Congress Ministers met at Tara Chand's residence under the chairman-

ship of Prof Soz to discuss their strategy vis-à-vis LAHDC Kargil.

The Congress leaders decided that the party would also stress for another meeting of the Co-ordination Committee to resolve the issue arising out of four nominations to the LAHDC Kargil by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on September 5.

"We will seek the Co-ordination Committee meeting at the earliest to sort out the issue amicably and immediately as

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State assures all steps for peaceful polls

GoI issues advisories to J&K on militancy, law & order, harmony

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 7: The Union Government has issued advisories to the State Government on anti-militancy measures, maintenance of law and order, communal harmony and other factors that could disturb the situation

ahead of next year's Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. The advisories were issued at a high level meeting in New Delhi chaired by Union Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth and Home Secretary Anil Goswami. Principal Secretary (Home) Suresh Kumar, Additional Director General of Police

(ADGP), Headquarters Dr Shesh Pal Vaid and Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Rajesh Kumar represented Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Union Government has asked the State Government to take all possible measures to keep militancy under check by maintaining strict surveillance on anti-national elements and maintenance of law and order by strict vigil on anti-social elements.

The State was cautioned that incidents like Kishtwar, which witnessed large scale arson on August 9 on the occasion of Eid festival, shouldn't recur as they had the potential of spreading to more parts of the State including the country.

The top officers of the Union Government stressed on the State officials to take all possible measures to maintain communal harmony, which certain forces could try to disturb ahead of next year's Lok Sabha and

Assembly elections. Though the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary had called the meeting mainly to caution the States including Jammu and Kashmir to check attempts to vitiate communal harmony before Lok Sabha elections, the States where Assembly elections are due in 2013 and 2014 were also asked to take similar measures for the Assembly polls.

While Lok Sabha elections are due in April-May 2014, the Assembly elections in the State are scheduled to be held in November-December 2014.

Sources said the three top civil and police officers of Jammu and Kashmir presented their view point on the situation to the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary. They briefed the Government of India that the State was fully alive to the situation and had taken all preventive measures to ensure that communal harmony and law and order was maintained at all costs.

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Clashes after killings, more forces rushed

4 killed in CRPF firing in Shopian

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 7: Four persons were killed when Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel fired at them outside Gagran security camp in South Kashmir district of Shopian this afternoon.

A Police spokesman said here that checking party of CRPF was fired upon by anti-national elements in Gagran, Shopian this afternoon. "The CRPF party retaliated and in the ensuing firefight, two anti-national elements got killed. One pistol and two grenades were recovered from their possession", police added.

The spokesman said that in the incident three more persons identified as Towseef Ahmed Bhat son of Gul Mohammad resident of Baba Mohalla Shopian, Aadil Rehman Wakhoo son of Abdul Rehman resident of Shopian and

Mohammad Yousuf of Durpora, Zainpora were injured.

"While Mohammad Yousuf died on the place of incident, Towseef Ahmad Bhat died on way to the hospital. Aadil Ahmad Wakhoo has been admitted in SMHS, Srinagar and is stable", the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that the identity of the anti national elements is being ascertained. "The phone which was recovered from the unidentified anti-national elements has been used by militants of Lashker-e-Toiba", the spokesman added.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, A G Mir said that two suspected militants and as many civilians were killed in the incident. "The identity of the suspected militants is being ascertained. Some weapons have been recovered from the scene", he added.

However, Inspector General

of Central of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Nalin Prabhat said: "Militants attacked CRPF camp at Gagran in Shopian and we fired back killing 3 militants. We have recovered some pistols and grenades", he added.

Prabhat said there were no casualties among the security personnel in the attack which was repulsed. He, however, said that Police is investigating into the case.

As the news about the deaths spread in the town, people came out in protest against the killings. Carrying dead body of Towseef Ahmad, the protesters marched through the streets of Shopian and demanded inquiry into the incident.

The other three dead bodies were taken by the CRPF inside their camp and were later handed over to the police. One of them was identified as Mohammad Yusuf and his body

was handed over his relatives for burial.

The two bodies are yet to be identified and they are lying in the District Police Lines Shopian.

Ding dong battles broke out between stone throwing protesters and police in the town during which police charged batons on the protesters and fired tear smoke shells.

The situation in the town is tense and additional forces have been rushed to the town to counter possible protesters tomorrow.

In the meantime, 12 Police men and a civilian were injured in a grenade attack on police near District Hospital in Pulwama this afternoon.

Police said that militants lobbed a grenade towards police deployment near District Hospital in Pulwama this afternoon in which 12 policemen

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JAMMU
Possibility of light rain/ thundershowers.
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.4 Degree C
Min: 24.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 86.0 per cent
Lowest: 76.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 06.48 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 06.12 a.m.
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Possibility of light rain/ thundershowers.
TEMPERATURE
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