

Sehrai replaces Geelani

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 19: Senior Hurriyat leader, Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, today replaced Syed Ali Shah Geelani as the chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH).

A TeH spokesman in a statement said that the TeH led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani today held a meeting at its office in Srinagar and elected senior member Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai as the party chairman.

While addressing the members of Shooraa, Geelani said that merely holding a position without practical contribution is injustice. "It is injustice not only with the post but the conscience as well, so today I willfully

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Ist unit of Kishanganga commissioned

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Mar 19: State-run power equipment maker BHEL today said it has commissioned first unit of 110 MW of the Kishanganga hydroelectric project (HEP) of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Located on the river Kishanganga, a tributary of the Jhelum in Bandipora district, all the three units of the 340 MW project will generate 1,350 million units (MU) of clean electricity annually, a BHEL statement said.

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JeM module busted, 6 held

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 19: Police today busted a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit module by arresting six of its members along with incriminating material from Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

"Acting on a specific information, Awantipora police along with 42 RR and CRPF, in a joint operation in Tral, busted a criminal network involving JeM outfit who were involved in recruiting youth into the militant ranks," police said.

Police said that they were involved in providing logistic support and facilitating movement of militants in the general area of Tral. They said that on their disclosure incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

CB detains one more in Rassana murder case

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 19: The Crime Branch (CB) Jammu has detained one more youth in connection with the Rassana murder case.

According to sources, one youth from village Rassana who was studying in Meerut (UP) was summoned by Crime Branch Jammu yesterday and has been detained by it for questioning regarding the murder of minor girl whose dead body was found in the Rassana forests on January 17 this year after remaining missing for over a week.

The youth, who is studying in Meerut, had come to his native village Rassana in January this year during vacations.

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'No funds for poverty, jobs, why waste on ammo'

India should act like elder brother, end hostilities with Pak: Mehbooba

If in my hands, I would have stopped bloodbath

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Mar 19: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said today that India should act like an "elder brother" and extend hand of friendship to Pakistan to end hostilities on the borders in which, accord-

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

ing to her, the people of both parts of Jammu and Kashmir have been sandwiched without their fault as these people were not responsible for partition of the country.

Asserting that during her last meeting with the Prime Minister, she had taken up only one issue and that was cessation of hostilities on the borders to let people live in peace, Mehbooba said she would again take up the same issue with the Prime Minister and try to work for 2003 like ceasefire between the



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti meeting Pakistan shelling victims at Bimber Gali in Poonch on Monday.

two neighbours for which she gave credit to then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and then Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister late Mufi Mohammad Sayeed.

"If in my hands, I would have stopped this bloodbath. I have told Modi Ji that India is like an elder brother and Pakistan is its

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

India summons Pak DHC

NEW DELHI, Mar 19: Reacting strongly, India termed as "highly deplorable" the killing of five civilians by Pakistani forces in "unprovoked firing" and summoned the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner to lodge a protest over the issue.

Pakistan DHC Syed Haider Shah, who was called to the South Block here, was also told that such heinous acts are against established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct and asked Pakistan to instruct its forces to desist from such acts immediately, the External Affairs Ministry said.

"It was conveyed that the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, who are located two kilometers away from the forward line of defences, by Pakistan forces using high calibre weapons, is highly deplorable and is condemned in the strongest terms," the Ministry said.

The strong protest was lodged at the loss of lives of five innocent Indian civilians (a couple and their three children) and grievous injuries to two other minor children in unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan forces on March 18 in

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)



A vehicle moves on snow bound Mughal road on Monday. -Excelsior/Younis Khalif

RK Goyal heads Inquiry Committee

Recruitment scam in J&K KVIB

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 19: The State Government today constituted three-member Inquiry Committee headed by Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department, RK Goyal to probe into the allegations of favouritism and selection of some close relatives of top functionaries in the ruling party.

Official sources said that on the directions of the Chief Minister, the General Administration Department vide order No. 462-GAD of 2018, dated 19-3-2018 today appointed the senior IAS Officer, Goyal as Chairman of the Inquiry Committee.

The two other members of the panel are Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department Dr Pawan Kotwal and Secretary to Government, School Education Department, Farooq Ahmed Shah.

The Committee has been asked to inquire into the allegations related to unfair selection made by the J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board (KVIB) against various posts and determine whether proper procedure and rules were followed for

making selections and also enquire into the methodology in selecting the agency for setting question papers and evaluation process adopted by the people at the helm of affairs. The Committee has been directed to submit its report to the Chief Secretary within one month.

It is pertinent to mention here that the issue came to lime light after the KVIB released selection list of Executive Officers and Law Officers, without mentioning the names of the candidates, their parentage, address, category etc. Later, it was found that some close relatives of two senior PDP leaders, and a son of former Law Secretary had been figuring in the selection list. For this reason, the names of the candidates were not mentioned in the newspapers.

The sources revealed that the list was released by the Selection Committee after joining of the blue eyed candidates. The issue was widely projected in the social media by some insiders and then NC in the press conferences at Srinagar and Jammu also exposed the recruitment scandal. It was broadly circulated in the social media connecting names of PDP vice president, Sartaj Madni's son and

nephew of KVIB Vice Chairman Peer Mansoor.

In the meanwhile, with the intervention of the Chairman of the KVIB, Chander Parkash Ganga and the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti, the lists for the posts of 23 Accounts Assistants, 33 Junior Supervisors and 24 Junior Assistants/ Record Keepers were withheld and the whole process was stalled. The Chief Minister also publicly declared that an inquiry into the matter will be held.

Sources in KVIB said that J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board invited applications vide Advt No. KVIB/01 of 2016 dated 8-10-2016 for the 103 posts of various categories. These included six posts of Executive Officers, 2 Law Officers, two Publicity Officers, 2 Assistant Executive Officers, 8 Statistical Assistants, 23 Accounts Assistants, 33 Junior Supervisors, 23 Junior Assistants/ Record Keepers, 2 Field Men/ Bee Keeping and one orderly.

Minister for Industries and Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga, who is Chairman of the KVIB had opposed the departmental recruitment board and had

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Code of Criminal Procedure being amended on HC intervention

Cabinet to deliberate on Justice Koul's report on 2010 killings today

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 19: State Cabinet, which is meeting under the chairpersonship of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti tomorrow, will hold deliberations on the findings and recommendations made by Justice (ret'd) M L Koul Commission after conducting detailed probe into killings of 2010 in Kashmir valley. Moreover, the Cabinet will put a seal of approval on the proposal regarding amendments in the J&K Code of Criminal Procedure to bring it at par with the Central law.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Cabinet will meet at Civil Secretariat tomorrow

Promotions, transfers in civil admn likely

row at 11 am to take decision on important agenda, which was earlier scheduled to be discussed on March 13 but remained pending due to re-scheduling of the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet will hold deliberations on the findings and recommendations of Justice M L Koul, who has conducted probe into the killings of 2010 in Kashmir valley, sources said.

The one-man Commission of Inquiry (Col), which was constituted by the previous Government to conduct probe into 2010 killings, had submitted its report to the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on

December 30, 2016 and since then it was lying with the Government.

In the 320 pages exhaustive report, Justice Koul has made several recommendations besides prescribing some operating procedures while dealing with such situation in future. The Commission has indicted State administration for lack of vigil, saying both administration and police were "inactive" in tackling the law and order situation, sources said.

It would be only after detailed deliberations that Cabinet will take a final call on implementation of the recom-

mendations of Justice Koul Commission.

The Cabinet will also clear the proposal regarding amendments in Jammu and Kashmir Code of Criminal Procedure as recommended by the State High Court.

"As per the existing provisions of J&K Code of Criminal Procedure, the under trials are required to be produced before the courts on each and every date of hearing. Moreover, they are especially required to be produced before the courts at the stage of remand and record of

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

2 minor brothers charred to death

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Two minor siblings of a nomadic Gujjar family were today charred to death after their house was gutted in a fire in Bathindi area of city outskirts.

"Five-year-old Ishfaq Ahmad son of Jailil Ahmed and his three-year-old younger brother, Ishfaq Ahmad, were burnt to death in the fire which charred their wooden house (Kulla) in a forest area of Panjpir in Bathindi, on the outskirts of the Jammu city", a police official said.

The fire broke out this evening when both the children were alone in the house, he said. "The cause of the fire was not known immediately", he said,

(Contd on page 6 Col 2)

HC seeks response on deficiencies in schools' infra

Among 49 cases of school torching, 5 challaned

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The High Court today sought response from the Government to the affidavit reflecting the deficiencies in educational institutions.

The affidavit has been filed by amicus to the PIL advocate Syed Musiab indicating therein the deficiencies of infrastructure in educational institutions.

The Division Bench of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir

and Justice D S Thakur granted four weeks time to Government to respond to these averments made in the affidavit.

It has been reflected in the affidavit that the survey by District Information System for Education (DISE), a computerised database of schools across India, has revealed that out of the total 28,578 schools in the State, over 4,000, roughly 15 percent of the total, are still functioning from rented buildings.

"Among the bottom States in the list, the State has a meagre 3.7 average number of classrooms, as per the data. While over 7 percent of the schools have just single room, 26 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, in J&K are with

just three and two classrooms with the respective percentages of schools at the All-India level being lower than J&K", read the affidavit.

It has also been submitted that only five more Indian States have a higher percentage of schools than J&K and only 34.82 per cent of the schools in the State have a boundary wall, revealed the data with the all-India percentage of such schools being 64.89 per cent.

"That a recent survey at all-India level has put J&K among the worst States in terms of school infrastructure and facilities for the students. Although 94 per cent of the Government schools in the State have set up girl's toilet facility, less than 44

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Despite completion, TRC building Bandipora awaits inauguration

Waseem Ahmad

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) building at Athwato village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district is craving to begin its work as Government has failed to inaugurate it for past two years.

The Tourist building which was developed with an estimated cost of Rs 4 crores by Manasbal Development Authority is lying defunct for last two years as Government is yet to finalize date for the inauguration of the building.

The first of its kind Tourist building with 10 rooms, dining hall and a kitchen wears a mod-

ern look and is a perfect place for the comfortable stay for the tourists.

Locals of the area said that they are eagerly waiting for the opening of the tourist building as it will attract more tourists. "We are very excited about the opening of the TRC building as it will help in attracting more tourists in the area," a local resident said.

He said the tourist building if thrown open will help in providing employment to local youth as the area is famous for fishing and foreign as well as domestic tourists often visit the place.

Locals also said that despite completion of the building, authorities are unnecessarily delaying its open-

ing. "Despite spending crores of rupees for this building, we fail to understand what is forcing Government to inaugurate this building, they said.

However, sources said the delay in inauguration of the tourist building is because of a tussle between two political leaders of Bandipora.

Chief Executive officer, Manasbal Development Authority, said that the delay in opening of the building for tourists and public was due to the issue of funds which has been sorted out now. "The project was initiated under Central funding and all the funds were utilized but there were some works pending for which we asked State Government for the

funds," he said

He said the tourist building is complete and will be soon thrown open for the public and tourists. "The building is complete and will soon be inaugurated," he said

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Sajad Hussain also said that the tourist building is complete and will be opened before the beginning of tourist season this year.

Asked about the issue of tussle between two political leaders for the delay in the inauguration of the building, he said: "The inauguration was delayed due to some pending works and there is no political issue regarding it."

Govt says ready for discussion

No-trust motion not taken up

NEW DELHI, Mar 19:

The notices for no-confidence motion against the Government could not be taken up today in the Lok Sabha as noisy protests by members from various parties disrupted proceedings, leading to adjournment of the House.

Amid the din, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the Government was ready for discussion on any issue, including on the no-confidence motion.

As soon as the House met for Zero Hour after the Question Hour was washed out, members from TRS and AIADMK trooped into the Well carrying placards. While the TRS was demanding a rise in

quota, the AIADMK was pressing for immediate setting up of the Cauvery river management board.

Soon after papers were laid on the table amid slogan-shouting by unrelenting members, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the Government was ready to discuss any issue.

Some members have given notices for no-confidence motion and the Government is ready for discussion on that as well, he added.

He also requested all parties to cooperate so that discussion can be taken up.

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan repeatedly requested the more than 25 members from the AIADMK and TRS standing in the Well to return to their seats.

As the uproar continued, Mahajan said she was duty-bound to take up the notices for no-confidence motion but could not as the House was not in order.

"Since the House is not in order, I will not be able to bring it... I am sorry," she said before adjourning the proceedings for the day.

The notices have been given by YSR Congress member Y V Subba Reddy and two members from TDP - Thota Narasimham and Jayadev Galla. Both parties have been demanding special package for Andhra Pradesh, an issue on which the TDP quit the ruling NDA alliance last week.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Dental College HoD attached

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: Government today attached the Head of the Department Orthodontics Government Dental College Srinagar, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad, after prolonged protests by students that paralysed the functioning of the hospital.

The Government order (No. * Pic on page 6. Video on www.excelsiornews.com

192 HME of 2018 dated 19-03-2018) issued by Health and Medical Education Department reads: "In the interest of the administration Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, HoD, Orthodontics Government Dental College Srinagar is hereby attached with the Director Health Services Kashmir till further orders."

The strike by the students of the GDC Srinagar had paralysed the functioning of the hospital for last 10 days.

Earlier today, students of Government Dental College and Hospital Srinagar protested over an alleged inaction of authorities against the harassment of the students by the HoD and demanded his removal as a guide.

Scores of students assembled at Partap Park here to protests against the inaction of the authorities over the allegations of harassment against the HoD. The students were carrying placards, reading "we want to feel safe, is that asking for too much?" and "we are hopeful for the justice". They shouted slogans against the college administration and demanded removal of the HoD.

The Post Graduate students of the Orthodontics department

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WEATHER

JAMMU: Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 30.4 Degree C
Min: 14.7 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 45.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 33.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 06:43 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday: 06:35 a.m.

SRINAGAR: Partly cloudy.
TEMPERATURE
Max: 22.0 Degree C
Min: 4.2 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 64.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 24.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 12.8 Degree C
Min: -0.1 Degree C