

Sehrai, cop's sons join militancy

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 24: The son of Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, the newly elected chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, has joined Hizbul Mujahideen today.

A police official said that Junaid Ashraf, 26-year-old son of Sehrai, has joined the Hizbul Mujahideen militant group. He has done MBA from Kashmir University and was missing since yesterday.

Sehrai was appointed chairman of the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) Jammu and Kashmir, on March 19 replacing Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who held the post for 15 years.

The police official said Junaid Ashraf, is a resident of Jehangir Colony in Srinagar's Baghat area, had been missing since Friday prayers yesterday.

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8 DySPs posted, 7 shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Police Department today ordered posting of 8 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) and shifted 7 others.

According to the order, Rakesh Akram has been posted as DySP JKAP-14th Battalion, while Paramvir Singh has been posted as DySP IR-16th Battalion and Nisar Ahmad Bakshi has been posted as DySP JKAP-12th Battalion.

Zahoor Ahmad has been posted as DySP JKAP-3rd Battalion, while Mohammad Younus has been posted as DySP IR-2nd Battalion and Tilak Raj has been posted as DySP IR-24th Battalion.

Farooq Hussain Shah has been posted as DySP IR-1st Battalion and Tariq Ahmad Tak was posted as DySP IR-8th Battalion.

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BSP-SP tie-up to continue: Maya

LUCKNOW, Mar 24:

BSP chief Mayawati today said that the Rajya Sabha election defeat will have no impact on her party's association with the Samajwadi Party and the two will work with even more force to defeat the BJP in the 2019 general elections.

A day after her party candidate lost to the BJP in an intense contest in Uttar Pradesh despite backing from the SP, the BSP supremo said the BJP is expecting that she will break off ties with the SP and "they will have a field day in 2019, but she will not let it happen".

Accusing the BJP of indulging in malpractice in the election, she said that the ruling party had "conspired" to defeat her candidate to create a rift between the BSP and SP. "I will not let that happen at any cost", she said.

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Massive searches in Kupwara forests

2 JeM militants killed in Dooru

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed in an overnight encounter at Dooru area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district while massive searches were launched in Kupwara forests against militants.

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Army's 19 RR and SOG of Jammu and Kashmir Police laid an ambush at Singh Check Sheshtergam village in Dooru in district Anantnag last night following inputs about the movement of some militants.

As the security forces started searches in the area, militants opened fire on the troops leading to a gun battle. Both the militants were killed in the encounter.

A police spokesman said the joint team of forces started searches at Singh Check Sheshtergam late last night and later a gunfight broke out with the hiding militants.

"Two militants have been killed and their bodies were

recovered along with huge cache of incriminating material which include AK 47 rifles, grenades etc," the spokesman said.

"Preliminary investigation



Troops during the gun battle at Dooru, Anantnag on Saturday. —Excelsior/Sajad Dar

suggested that both the killed militants are from Pakistan. Further based on the seizures made from the spot and other incriminating materials collected so far have confirmed that the killed militants were a part of JeM outfit," the spokesman said.

In the encounter no collateral damage took place and forces sanitized the area, the spokesman said. A case has been

registered and investigation has been taken up under the relevant provisions of the law by the police.

Meanwhile, clashes erupted at several areas including

snapped in Kulgam and Anantnag districts soon after the encounter broke out last night.

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) today said that the two militants of the outfit were killed in Dooru area of Anantnag district.

In the meantime, security forces launched cordon and search operation at Darumdur in Shopian district today. Army's 44 RR and Shopian police cordoned off the village after inputs about presence of militants.

Residents pelted stones on the security forces to disrupt the operation. Security forces fired teargas to disperse the protesters.

Security forces today launched a fresh cordon-and-search operation in Halmatpora forests of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Sources said that a joint team of Army's 41 RR and SOG this afternoon launched searches following the suspicious movement in the upper reaches of the forest area - adjacent to Check Fathekkhan of Haihama - which connects Gulgam and Awoora forest areas.

(Contd on page 11 Col 1)

Lalu sentenced to 14 yrs in jail

RANCHI, Mar 24:

RJD supreme Lalu Prasad was today sentenced to 14 years in jail and fined Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court in connection with the fourth fodder scam case pertaining to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 3.13 crore from Dumka treasury in the early 1990s, a CBI counsel said here.

CBI judge Shiv Pal Singh awarded two separate sentences of seven years each to Prasad under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Acts, counsel Rakesh Prasad said.

Both the sentences will have to be served consecutively, he added.

Advocate Vishnu Sharma, while explaining the court's decision, said, "Lalu Prasad has

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Ramnavmi Greetings To All Our Readers.

Centre approves two police bns exclusively for J&K border youth

MHA sanctions Rs 105 cr, over 2000 to get jobs

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 24: In a decision aimed at helping the youths from border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, both living along the International Border (IB) as well as Line of Control (LoC), the Union Home Ministry has approved raising of two Reserve Battalions of Police exclusive for the youths living within 10 kilometers of IB and LoC. The

raising of two new police battalions would give recruitment to a little over 2000 border youth.

"The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will fully fund the two battalions, which were expected to be raised at the cost of Rs 105 crore approximately," official sources told the Excelsior.

During his visit to Nowshera sector on the LoC in September 2017, Rajnath Singh had promised that brave youth from the border belts of Jammu and Kashmir will be recruited in police through special recruitment for Reserve Police Battalions. The MHA, according to sources, was working on the proposal, which has been

approved and a formal decision to this effect has also been conveyed to Jammu and Kashmir Government.

"The Union Home Ministry has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to set the process in motion for raising of two Reserve Police battalions, one each for Jammu and Kashmir regions. Both the battalions will have 1000 police personnel approximately from the two regions, totaling a little over 2000," sources said, adding that financial outlay of Rs 105 crore has also been approved for the two battalions.

Sources said to ensure that maximum people living along

(Contd on page 11 Col 1)

Violence in Nowshera after police resorts to lathi-charge, teargas shelling

Gopal Sharma

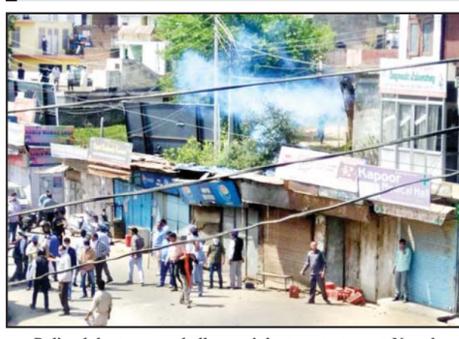
JAMMU, Mar 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, two Additional SPs, SHO Nowshera and two media-persons were among at least 36 persons injured as violence spread in the troubled township of Nowshera after police resorted to lathi-charge and teargas shelling on the protesters, followed by stone-pelting by mob near Tehsil office complex at Nowshera town of district Rajouri today.

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

The police fired several rounds in the air to quell mob while teargas shells landed in many houses, causing trouble and inconvenience to the women, children and elderly persons in some localities. The CRPF men assisting J&K Police also allegedly barged into many houses and beat up the locals. In stoning, at least half a dozen vehicles were also damaged while 'brick and bat' clash in the entire town continued throughout the day.

After violence in the town, the internet service was also

Cops fire in air, Internet service snapped



Police lobbs teargas shells on violent protesters at Nowshera on Saturday. Another pic on page 11. —Excelsior/Bhat

snapped by Administration. Deputy Commissioner Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and SSP Yougal Manhas rushed to Nowshera from Rajouri district headquarters along with additional force.

Trouble in the town started after Govt announcement to elevate post of SDM Nowshera as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nowshera last

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Asset mapping to begin afresh following GVK's objections

Despite arbitrator's nod, resumption of work on Ratle Power Project unlikely in near future

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 24: Notwithstanding green signal from the arbitrator, the resumption of work on 850 Mega Watt Ratle Hydroelectric Project on River Chenab in Kishtwar district is unlikely in near future as PDP-BJP Coalition Government is still groping in dark over alternate mechanism. Moreover, the asset mapping of the project will begin afresh following objections from the Hyderabad-based GVK company.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that during the course of arbitration the arbitrator in the recent past rejected the objections from GVK Company vis-à-vis resumption of work on the project as unfounded and made it clear that arbitration doesn't mean allowing fate of the project to remain hanging for unspecified period.

"Arbitration is a long drawn process and keeping in view the importance of the project its fate cannot be allowed to remain hanging for a long period", sources said quoting the observations of the arbitrator.

Accordingly, the arbitrator gave green signal to Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation to go ahead with exploring options for resumption of work on the project while simultaneously cooperating in the arbitration process, sources said.

However, the arbitrator considered the objections of GVK Company vis-à-vis asset mapping conducted by IIT Roorkee and agreed to the demand of getting this exercise carried out through IIT Delhi, sources said.

"IIT Roorkee had almost completed the mapping of the assets of the project created by GVK Company and was about to submit its report but Hyderabad based company told the arbitrator that they want this exercise to be conducted by IIT Delhi", sources said, adding "in order to ensure that all the issues between GVK Company and

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Those who sabotaged Amarnath movement are now invoking it: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: Union Minister of State in PMO with independent charge for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh today lambasted those forces who out of desperation are trying to find a

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

fault with the working of coalition Government in the State and making a hue and cry that the conditions like Amarnath type Andolan have emerged in the State.

Talking to reporters here today and later addressing a Mandal level workers meeting,

the Union Minister said, the people who vehemently opposed the Amarnath Andolan in 2008

are now posing to be a role model of Jammu's voice. "By saying so this means that they too are holding the Amarnath agitation of 2008 as a role model".

He, while ridiculing the statement of National Conference and Congress leaders for opt repeating that the coalition has proved a failure, said that this Government completed three years in office and still they say it is a failure. "This

is nothing but their sheer desperation of remaining out of power", he added.

Maintaining that this is the evidence based age, Dr Jitendra Singh said the people can not be carried out by such a false propaganda as they have capacity to judge the performance. Asking the party workers to have faith in themselves and their leadership, he urged them to launch a door to door campaign to take Governments performance to the people.

On Rassana issue, Dr Jitendra Singh said he favoured investigation without any bias and no one should be unnecessarily harassed. The transparency in the

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

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TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.0 Degree C
Min: 15.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 75.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 35.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 06.46 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 06.29 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
Max: 21.2 Degree C
Min: 7.3 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 70.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 25.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 13.1 Degree C
Min: -1.8 Degree C

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