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Omar leaves in huff without addressing rally; pandemonium breaks out

Mandi, Jablpora and Adar-Seepan bridge in Bijbehara. He also formally inaugurated the Government Degree College building at Bijbehara.

The Director of the Department of Information, Zaffar Ahmad, told Excelsior that he ordered suspension of the District Information Officer, Tanveer Ahmad and three other officials of the department following the failure of the public address system ahead of Chief Minister's speech at village Adar in Bijbehara constituency of South Kashmir.

Ahmad said that he has ordered an inquiry into the failure of the Public address system and Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Shafaqat Ahmad has been asked to probe the matter. "He will submit his report in two weeks time, he added.

Earlier, Omar said people of the State will judge the performance of his Government and expressed hope that the "people-friendly policies" adopted by the coalition would speak loud and clear in next year's Assembly elections.

"People are best judges to gauge the performance of my Government. The work done on the ground would speak loud and clear for the people-friendly policies adopted by the Government to steer the State towards the shore of peace, pros-

perity and economic welfare," Omar said after laying foundation of a bridge at Audar in Bijbehara.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah shakes hand with local fruit growers of Bijbehara during inauguration of fruit Mandi at Subhanpora on Saturday.

Omar said the people would judge "us on our performance and achievements" and that he has faith in the public.

"The report card of the Government is in the public domain and it will be further elaborated well before the Election-2014. We believe in almighty and public support is our highest strength," he said.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated Rs 10 crore college

complex for Degree College at Bijbehara and interacted with the students there, an official spokesman said.

Omar said the youth are the

and creating befitting educational environment in the schools, colleges and universities, so that development of human resource take place in its right perspective



architects of new and modern Jammu and Kashmir and asked them to take their studies seriously and prove their merit and ability at all levels.

The Chief Minister told them that the Government was giving due attention to the process of expansion and consolidation in the education sector, the spokesman said.

Omar stressed on making education an apolitical sector

and the educational institutions produce talented, qualified and capable human resource.

Later, the Chief Minister also laid foundation of Rs 13 crore Trauma Hospital at Bijbehara and a Modern Fruit and Vegetable Market at Jablpora, the spokesman said.

Foundation of Rs 5.62 crore 50-metre-long bridge at Saphen Audar was also laid, he added.

10 officers empanelled as DIGs

Jain, Nitish Kumar and SR Samuel, all on Central deputation and belonging to 1999 batch.

The recently held Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) had cleared the name of Tsering Puchok for promotion as IGP and Vijay Singh Samyal and JL Sharma for the posts of DIGs.

While the MHA has empanelled Mr Samyal and Mr Sharma as DIGs, they continued to work as SSPs in the State despite clearance by the DPC for their promotion as DIGs.

Manmohan Singh was not promoted as DIG in view of an inquiry pending against him.

Govt sends Tunda to 14 days JC

blast cases across the country.

The police had told the court that Tunda was a declared proclaimed offender in a case of recovery of explosive substances lodged in 1994 at south Delhi's Malviya Nagar police station under the provisions of stringent anti-terror law TADA.

During the proceedings, which had been held in-camera, after a lawyer interrupted it, Tunda had told the court that he was "innocent" as he had not motivated anyone to kill women

Six officers of 1999 batch, who have been left out by the MHA for empanelment as DIGs or equivalent rank, included Ashkooor Wani, Ali Mohammad, Manmohan Singh, Bashir Ahmad Itoo, Israr Ahmad Khan and Nissar Ahmad. First four officers left out of empanelment list were senior in the rank from Mr Samyal and Mr Sharma. Barring Manmohan Singh, all three were already working as DIGs.

According to Delhi Police, he is wanted for his role in 1993 Mumbai serial train blasts, Delhi bomb blasts of 1997-98 and serial bombings in the State of UP and also at Panipat, Sonapat,

children by exploding bombs.

Tunda is one of 20 terrorists India had asked the Pakistan Government to hand over after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack and is suspected to be involved in 40 bombings in the country. He is the first in the list to be arrested.

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Awareness program on 'save the girl child' held

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: To create awareness among the masses and students about the declining female sex ratio in the State, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Jammu and Kashmir has started the awareness programme on "save the girl child", adolescent health and school health in Srinagar.

Symposia and workshops are being organized on competitive basis in the girls' High/Higher Secondary Schools and two Women Colleges of Srinagar district.

In a press statement, it said that the best speaking students of the concerned educational institutions would be given prizes and a prize winning certificate decided by three judges nominated from the educational and Health Department of the State.

"So far, four such symposia in girls' high school Chattabal, Girls' High School Batamalo, Girls' High School Narwara and Girls' Higher Secondary School Nowhatta have been organized in Srinagar district," it said.

Thirteen such programmes are yet to be organized in other girls' schools and will be completed on 10th of next month under a team of experts from NRHM.

Besides, educating and creating awareness about the adolescent reproductive and sexual health and school health programme are also underway in other districts of the State.

DLSA organizes awareness camps

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 24: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with an NGO organized various awareness camps in relation to women and children in need of care and protection.

A team of Advocates, para legal volunteers and staff of DLSA visited SOS Home, Gole Gujral, Neha Ghar and Home for Old Age persons and identified the women and destitutes, who required assistance for overcoming social backwardness.

Legal awareness programme on protection of women from

domestic violence act belonging to various categories was conducted in Panchayat Ghar, Gole Gujral.

An awareness camp relating to working women in organized and un-organized sector was also organized in skill development training centre, cutting and tailoring sponsored by JUDA, Government of India in New Plot.

The awareness camps were held under the supervision of Kartar Singh, Principal, District and Session Judge.

Molestation accused arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 24: An accused of molestation case in Udhampur was arrested today from Qazigund, where he was hiding after committing the crime.

The accused has been identified as Fareed Mohd of Leri, Udhampur, who had allegedly molested a woman in village Leri Udhampur on August 21, raising waves of strong resentment among the locals.

The agitated people had also held a strong protest against the incident and blocked National Highway near Jaganu Morh.

According to police, the arrest was made after a series of raids at possible hideouts of the accused, who was ultimately traced in Qazigund, Kashmir.

2 injured in road mishaps

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Two persons were injured in different road accidents in Budgam district today.

A police spokesman said a school bus JK04B/4019 hit a motorcycle JK04B/7439 at General Bus Stand, Budgam, and injured its rider Gulzar Ahmad Dar, son of Gulam Nabi of Dargerpora.

He said the injured was shifted to hospital for treatment. An Alto car JK04B/9466 hit and injured a pedestrian Rifat Ara, 20, daughter of Mohammad Yousuf of Check Kawoosa at Check Kawoosa, Budgam. She was removed to a hospital for treatment, police said.

Inquiry should not morph into calumny, witch-hunt: PM

NEW DELHI, Aug 24:

Advising media to exercise caution, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said the spirit of inquiry must not morph into a "campaign of calumny" and "witch-hunt" is no substitute for investigative journalism.

Sharing the dais with Singh at the inauguration of Rs 60 crore National Media Centre here, Congress President Sonia Gandhi also said, "At times the language and dignity of media discussion can be found wanting. Sometimes I, too, have to confess that the media makes the political establishment uncomfortable."

Maintaining that the media is not merely a mirror of business activity, Singh said it is a reflection of the entire society.

While reflecting the process of great societal changes brought out by the economic reform and liberalisation, the media has also been affected by these changes, he said.

"Change inevitably brings challenge in its wake. Those of you, who are the practitioners of media industry have a special responsibility to assess, tackle and overcome the challenges that two decades of socio-economic changes have brought about," the Prime Minister said.

He said in a vibrant democracy like India, which revels in free enquiry and quest for answers, this is a significant calling.

"But there is need for caution while executing this responsibility. A spirit of inquiry must not morph into a campaign of calumny. A witch-hunt is no substitute for investigative journalism. And personal prejudices must not replace the public good," Singh said.

The views of the Prime Minister and Congress President come against the backdrop of severe battering the UPA Government and the ruling party

have suffered in the last three years over a series of scams.

The NMC is a state-of-the-art facility, set up by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in the 75th year of its information wing—Press Information Bureau, to act as a communication hub and a single window facility for media persons.

The Prime Minister said that at the end of the day, "credibility is the media's currency" and is integral to its contract with the reader or viewer.

"There is also the question of a certain responsibility for social harmony and public order. I emphasise this particularly in the light of the social media revolution, which is rendering irrelevant the lines between a connected citizen and professional journalist.

"A mature and wise handling of this phenomenon is essential if we are to avoid the tragedy last year that befell many innocent souls who became victims of an online propaganda campaign and were then driven across the country to save their lives in their home states," Singh said.

While noting that journalism cannot be divorced from the business of which it is a part, the Prime Minister said that the responsibility of the media organisations is not limited to the viewers and readers alone as the companies also have an obligation to their investors and shareholders.

"The tussle between bottom-lines and headlines is a fact of life for them," he said but at the same time added "this should not result in a situation where media organisations lose sight of their primary directive, which is to hold up a mirror to society and help provide a corrective."

Gandhi said that the media has a tremendous, almost larger than life impact on our lives and "this imposes great responsibility". (PTI)

Dignity of State's people prime concern of Govt: Sagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today reiterated that upliftment and socio-economic development of the people across the State is prime concern of Government, saying that various initiatives have been taken in this regard including establishment of Panchayati Raj system in the J&K.

The Minister was addressing a large gathering of people and public representatives in an Awami Darbar held at Dara, Fakir Gujri here today.

Legislators, Mohammad Yaseen Shah, Sheikh Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Director Rural Development Department, Kashmir, Altaf Ahmad Mir and various district officers were present on the occasion.

Mr. Sagar urged upon people to extend their cooperation for maintaining peace so that State could achieve new heights of development and prosperity. He also asked people to avail maximum benefit from various State and Centrally sponsored schemes to elevate their socio-economic status.

He said that the people are fully aware of the developmental process initiated by the Government for ensuring need based and sustained prosperity and development of the State.

These progressive initiatives have changed the socio-economic profile of the rural and far flung areas and the State as a whole, he said. "Some parties are trying to mislead the people by spreading falsehood, flouting obnoxious ideas and hypocrisy."

But the people are wise enough to understand their machinations and will give a befitting reply to them in next elections, he maintained.

He cautioned people against defeated politicians who have exploited the people for their vested interests. He said they are the elements responsible for bloodshed and mayhem that struck the State in 1990 when

they were in the higher corridors of power at Centre. He urged upon them to differentiate between right and wrong.

The Minister said that Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has introduced various employment generation schemes including Himayat, Udaan and Umeed besides other skill development programs through which number of unemployed youth have been imparted training and have been made able to earn their lively hood with dignity and passion.

On the occasion, people and public representatives of the Dara, Kimber, Fakir Gujri and other adjoining areas put forth their demands before the Minister which include repairing of, electric poles, street lights, roads, lanes and drains, supply of drinking water and ration. They also demanded for construction of play field besides developing one village of the area as model village, and taking necessary steps for preventing man animal conflicts in the area.

Responding favourably to the demands, the Minister made announcement of making one of the villages of the area as model village and assured them that all the genuine demands will be fulfilled on priority basis.

Yassen Shah, Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Altaf Ahmad Mir also spoke on the occasion.

Unidentified body recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 24: Police recovered body of an unidentified male near Shiv Mandir, Canal Road.

A police spokesman said that, body of 50-year-old unidentified male was recovered near Shiv Mandir, Canal Road.

The body has been shifted to the mortuary of Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for identification.

Any body having clue about the deceased may kindly inform Police Post Canal Road, where a case stands registered and investigation started.

Man's body found

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: An old man has been found dead in a Masjid in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

A police spokesman said the body of Abdul Aziz Khan, 60, son of Mohammad Alam Khan of Malyiar Kralkhud, Srinagar, was found in a Masjid at Zirpora, Anantnag in suspicious conditions. Police have started investigations under Section 174 CrPC in this regard, the spokesman said.

Pak spreads heavy firing, shelling to Rajouri sector

uation. Police was in touch with the villagers and has been asking them to stay put in the villages as they would be fully protected.

Mr Latifi said the injured boy Khalil, in his statement to police, has confirmed that he was injured in firing by the Pakistani troops. He added that the injured boy has been referred to Government Medical College, Jammu.

Sources described Pakistan firing in Manjakote sector as completely unprovoked and warned of more strong retaliation from the Indian Army in future if any attempt was made from across the LoC to target civil areas.

Though this was second ceasefire violation in Manjakote sector, this was, however, for the first time that Pakistan Army resorted to such a heavy firing and shelling for more than couple of hours.

The forward areas of Manjakote sector, where Pakistan Army resorted to firing and shelling, were at the border of Balakote sector in Poonch district, which had been witnessing continued firing for past over fortnight.

On August 20 morning, Pakistan Army had fired two 82mm mortar shells at Peer Gali and Ramgarh in Mangalnarh area of Manjakote sector in Rajouri district. The shells had landed close to civil areas but failed to cause any damage.

Sources said after 16 days long consecutive firing and

shelling in almost entire Poonch district including Balakote, Mendhar, Hamirpur and



A boy injured in Pakistan firing at Chiti Bakri in Keri sector of Rajouri on Saturday.

Poonch, Pakistan Army has been trying to spread the trouble to neighbouring border district of Rajouri, which was evident from their firing in Manjakote sector.

However, Indian Army has been giving effective retaliation at all the places including Manjakote sector. Sources said that Pakistan Army was frustrated by the response of Indian troops. Pakistan has suffered heavy losses on their side in retaliatory firing by the troops.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Army again violated ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and shelling in Shahpur Keri and other forward areas of Poonch sector this morning.

Sources said after overnight

lull on the LoC, Pakistan Army started heavy firing on forward Indian positions and civilian

minutes firing. Some civilian areas were also targeted.

However, there were no casualties or damage on the Indian side.

Pakistan Army was also targeting civilian areas, sources said, adding this has created strong resentment among the people. So far, seven civilians and three Army jawans have been injured in Pakistan firing and shelling in Poonch sector.

With today's incidents of firing and shelling in Poonch and Rajouri districts, 35 ceasefire violations have been reported from Pakistan side along the Line of Control (LoC) during past 16 days.

The heavy firing and shelling had started after the killing of five Indian soldiers in Sarla battalion area in Poonch sector on the intervening night of August 5 and 6.

Meanwhile, Army today recovered a rocket from a Nullah under Hamilton bridge near Mini Stadium in Rajouri town.

A Bomb Disposal Squad defused the rocket, which appeared to be an old one.

DSE, SSA authorities unaware of enquiry ordered by Edu Deptt about month back

Excelsior Correspondent

conducted by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nyoma on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Leh, Simrandeep Singh. The work on KGBV was executed departmentally by the Directorate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) through the Executive Engineer, North SSA Division Kashmir.

Though the construction was completed in the year 2009 yet handing over-taking over of the building never took place during the past four years as the then Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) didn't find the building complete in all respects, which was not accepted by the Executive Engineer, North SSA Division Kashmir as a result of which building constructed at a cost of Rs 30 lakh remained un-used.

As the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's report indicated that building has developed numerous cracks and some of its portion does not have doors and electric fitting, the Deputy Commissioner sought a report from the Public Works Department (PWD) Sub-Division Nyoma regarding the current safety status of the building. The Executive Engineer PWD Nyoma, in his report to the Deputy Commissioner, mentioned that building of KGBV was unsafe for use.

Taking serious note of this, the Deputy Commissioner forwarded the case to the Chief Secretary and the Commissioner/Secretary School Education Department last month for necessary action against all those behind blatant misuse of official position and embezzlement of money.

In response to the case forwarded by the DC Leh, Deputy Secretary to Government, Education Department vide Order No.Edu/NC/SE/334-II/2013 dated July 29, 2013 asked the Director School Education,

Kashmir and the State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Srinagar to conduct enquiry into the misappropriation of public money by officials of Directorate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Enclosed with copy of the complaint received from the District Development Commissioner, Leh, the order inter alia said, "the contents of the complaint are self explanatory. As such you are requested to conduct enquiry by constituting an enquiry team which shall conduct in-depth enquiry within 15 days and favour the report with your comments to the Administrative Department".

However, Director School Education, Kashmir, Mir Tariq Ali, when contacted, expressed ignorance about such order issued by the Administrative Department. "I have not seen any such order", said Mr Ali. Similarly, an officer of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan said, "I will have to check the record". He, however, promptly added, "if there is any such order we will constitute a team within next some days for detailed enquiry". This was the response from the SSA officer despite the fact that enquiry had to be conducted within 15 days beyond July 29, 2013.

"It is a matter of serious concern that those officers, who had to conduct the enquiry into the misappropriation of funds, are in dark about the order issued by the Administrative Department", sources regretted, adding "this also indicates how much serious are the officers of the Education Department headed by Deputy Chief Minister towards tightening noose around those who were instrumental in rendering Rs 30 lakh expenditure unfruitful besides depriving the students of the remote area of Nyoma of the benefit of the KGBV scheme".

Unabated encroachment of land

approached the JDA seeking an intervention and restoration of the land to save the area from the increasing pollution of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goat as it has become a breeding place for mosquitoes. They apprehend spread of epidemic like Dingo and Malaria if the area is not freed from the land encroachers and proper sanitation is maintained there.

Earlier JDA had tried to remove the encroachments in the area few years back but it resulted into a ding dong battle between police and the land grabbers. Later the authorities bowing to political pressure left the idea and gave a free hand to land grabbers in encroaching the entire land, sources said. The local people termed the Government's move a half hearted approach saying that they never meant to remove the encroachments and restore the land to its original

Sonia rules out early polls

Government to seek an immediate mandate in the wake of a looming economic crisis.

Gandhi also expressed confidence that UPA will come back to power after the next polls, noting that the rights given to the people by the ruling alliance were its USP.

"Certainly, 100 per cent.....Obviously so many rights we have given. It is our right to information, right to education and now right to food is our USP", she said when asked about the possibility of UPA coming back to power and

what was the USP on which the elections will be fought.

To a query, she said hopefully the Food security bill, which has been pending consideration for long, will be passed next week.

"How can I say?" she said when asked whether BJP will cooperate in its passage.

On the Telangana issue, she said that the AICC panel headed by A K Antony is hearing the concerns of those affected. She said Government will also be setting up a committee, but did not elaborate. (PTI)