

Accused in rape, kidnapping case acquitted Court passes strictures against police

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 2: Principal Sessions Judge Jammu, A K Koul today acquitted a youth named Naseer Ahmed of Sudhmahadev, his father Abdul Kabir and mother Neema of the charges of rape and kidnapping. According to the police case, on November 15, 2011 the prosecutrix was kidnapped from Udhampur and brought to Jammu. The accused persons took her to a hotel and coerced her to marry accused Naseer Ahmed. When she refused to do so, Naseer raped her and later confined her in Kachi Chawani area. However, police managed to rescue the girl.

After hearing Public Prosecutor Navneet Gupta for the State whereas Advocate I L Thakur for the accused persons, Principal Sessions Judge observed, "the court is of the considered view that the prosecution story is not credible. There are two possibilities, one that the prosecutrix has given a false statement notwithstanding the fact that she was a consenting party to what happened or the investigating officer has shown the dereliction of duty".

"In both the eventualities, the conclusion is that the case is a failure and accused have been booked in the case without a reason. So the court is left with no option but to observe that the nexus between the guilt and the accused has not been established", Principal Sessions Judge said and acquitted the accused of the charges.

Taking serious note of the investigation of case, the Court observed, "the investigation of this case has been conducted in a very casual manner. One cannot imagine that the investigator in a case of this type would show a casual approach and lack of commitment. It needs no emphasis that a charge of rape or kidnapping is such a serious accusation that it deserves an in depth probe so that the truth is brought to light but in this case it is evident that the investigating officer has not shown any seriousness in conducting the investigation fairly".

"The investigator has not

bothered to trace the vehicle in which the prosecutrix was allegedly kidnapped. The vehicle was being driven by someone other than accused but the driver has not been identified. The prosecutrix was allegedly raped in a hotel at Jammu but the investigator could not locate the hotel", the court said, adding "the prosecutrix was confined in the house of grandfather of accused but grandfather is neither an accused nor a witness. The prosecutrix was recovered from a crowded place at Kachi Chowni but the witnesses present around were not associated with the process of recovery".

"It is not known as to how the police party reached the place where prosecutrix was confined. The missing report was registered in Police Station Chenani. The prosecutrix was recovered from Kachi Chowni Jammu and no one knows how police reached there without

their being a known source to guide the police to the place of recovery. All these facts justify the observations of the Court that the role of investigating officer(s) in this case has been casual, questionable, and against the basic tenants of criminal justice system", Principal Sessions Judge said.

"The irresponsible attitude of the investigating officer(s) of the case has led to very serious consequences. Accused No.1 is in detention right from the date of his arrest and who is going to compensate him for what he has faced. The officers at the helm of affairs in Police Department do need to introspect and address to the issues as to the faulty investigations which are on rise at a dangerous pace and if unchecked such investigation are sure to erode the faith of the people in the criminal justice system", Principal Sessions Judge further observed.

RDD Head Draftsman caught accepting bribe

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 2: A Head Draftsman of Rural Development Department in Kupwara was caught red handed by the Vigilance sleuths while accepting bribe.

The accused, identified as Bashir Ahmad of Gantamulla Baramulla, presently residing at Haiderpora Gulberg Colony Srinagar. The arrest was made on a trap laid by the Vigilance Organization following written complain by a contractor Gh Ahmad Malik of Haiyan Trehgam Kupwara.

As per the complaint to Vigilance Organization Kashmir, Gh Ahmad Malik said that he was allotted two works by Executive Engineer RDD Kupwara after tenders for the same. However, the execution orders could not be issued to him by the Executive Engineer as the Head Draftsman Bashir Ahmad was transferred without depositing the said documents in the office. After the complainant approached Bashir Ahmad, the latter demanded an

amount of Rs 1 lakh as illegal gratification for handing over the relevant papers and after great persuasion the deal was struck for Rs 75,000. An amount of Rs 5000 was to be paid to him today and the remaining in installments.

On the basis of this complaint, a case FIR No 16/2013 U/S 5(2) PC Act 2006, r/w 161 RPC P/S VOK was registered and a trap was laid in which the accused Head Draftsman was caught red handed accepting phenolphthalein dusted amount of Rs 5000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witness.

Protest against water crisis, road blocked

Excelsior Correspondent
RAJOURI, July 2: People from Ward No. 2 and adjoining areas of the town held protest demonstration on hospital road against PHE authorities and disrupted movement of traffic for some time this evening.

A large number of people of the area came out on the road and held strong protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans against the PHE authorities Rajouri for their failure to restore supply to the locality for the last more than one month. The people alleged that there was no water supply and concerned officers have failed to make alternate arrangements. Despite several requests, they were least bothered about the public plight.

The people raised barricades and blocked the main hospital road for about two hours. Massive traffic jam was created there. Police party led by SHO with force reached there but people refused to lift dharna. Later, AEE PHE reached there and assured the people to restore adequate water supply shortly. The people gave two days' ultimatum failing which they will resort to massive agitation.

J&K suffering from crisis of governance: Mufti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: Seeking a decisive mandate to establish a new system of justice and equality in Jammu and Kashmir, patron of People's Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said that his party is committed to provide humane, efficient, transparent, accountable and corruption free governance to the people of the State.

Addressing a function to welcome senior Congress leader Hamid Chowdhary, who joined PDP here today, Mufti said that eliminating corruption and improving quality and efficiency of the governance in Jammu and Kashmir is priority of PDP.

"Apart from political uncertainty, State is also suffering from crises of governance during the last five years", he said while pointing towards failure of the present regime on all fronts. He added that PDP, during its tenure, had proved how to provide good governance to the people by improving quality and capacity to deliver.

Mufti said there is a widespread public recognition of the fact that the credible leadership and pro-people agenda of PDP had positively transformed the State's political, economic and developmental landscape after 2002.

Seeking mandate of the peo-

JCC members ask employees to observe strike on July 8

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: As already resolved, the senior members of Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of J&K Government employees from Jammu region have announced that complete strike will be observed by the

those from Civil Secretariat would observe 'Kaam Chhor Hartal' on July 8, 2013. In Jammu the employees would hold a large protest rally outside the office of Divisional Commissioner at Rail Head complex. It would start from Panama Chowk and all the employees would assemble there 8 am onwards. Several senior trade union leaders would address the rally. Employees from Jammu and adjoining tehsils would participate in this grand protest programme.

The JCC leader Kulwant Singh alleged that Government has failed to address the issues of the employees including regularization of workers and framing a policy, removing pay anomalies of the clerical staff/ ICDS supervisors

support to the PSUs besides providing 6th Pay Commission benefits to all. He further claimed that Government has failed to honour the agreement signed with the JCC leadership on September 15, 2011.

The senior members of the JCC including Amrik Singh, Jaswant Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Hari Singh, Gopal Singh, Rohit George, Ravi Singh Bhau, Balwinder Singh, Moulvi Muneer, Dharminder Singh and others appealed the employees from various departments to get united for their common cause and observe complete strike on the proposed day.

Mr Dar claimed that as per a decision, the employees from all the departments, PSUs, including

Government employees from all the departments and Public Sector Undertakings on July 8.

Addressing a press conference here today, a senior JCC member Mohd Gafoor Dar said that employees would strike work on the proposed date and hold protest demonstration at all the district headquarters across the State to press for their pending demands. He claimed that employees are being forced to come out on the roads and stage protests demonstrations by the Government.

Mr Dar claimed that as per a decision, the employees from all the departments, PSUs, including

ple to fulfill unfinished agenda of PDP, he said "the process of the State's political and economic transformation started by the PDP-led coalition government in the year 2002 has to be now taken to the logical conclusion with the support of the common people". "It is very unfortunate that the present National Conference led regime has failed to carry forward the development agenda which was started during PDP-Congress regime after 2002", he said.

Observing that the present regime has lost its credibility, he said, "After formation of National Conference led government in the year 2009, the State has been plunged into unprecedented crisis and this regime has become synonymous of chaos and uncertainty".

"Attaining power is not the only aim of PDP. We, with the support of the people, want to change the present ineffective system", he said and added that it is aim of the PDP to establish a system where every sections of the society would get equal opportunities of development and upliftment.

Senior leaders including Rangil Singh, Trilok Singh Bajwa, Balbir Singh, Yashpal Sharma, (MLC), Ved Mahajan, Hussain Ali Bafa, Ashok Jogi and others were present on the occasion.

Governor reviews all important aspects of ongoing Amarnath Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: N. N. Vohra, Governor, who is Chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, reviewed all important aspects of the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which commenced on June 28, 2013, in a meeting held at Raj Bhavan here today. He reviewed the to-date status of the first five days movement of the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Governor has been daily monitoring the movement of the Yatra and for this purpose the CCTV Cameras installed at Access Control Gates at Chandanwari and Domel have been directly linked up with the Raj Bhavan via Internet. As soon as the Yatra start arriving at the Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari in the morning around 5. a. m., for their onward journey to the Holy Cave, their movements are monitored live by the CEO and, during the day four hourly reports are sent to the Chairman regarding the

Camp-wise position of the number of Yatris arriving there, halting there, moving towards the Shrine and the number of those who have performed Darshan at the Holy Shrine. The weather status is also reviewed several times a day.

Today morning, the Governor along with CEO and Additional CEO of the Board and other concerned officers, spent considerable time at the NIC to monitor the movement of the Yatra, as live footage from both the Access Control Gates at Chandanwari and Domel was being beamed. During this period, the latest status of the Yatra movement was ascertained from the Camp Directors at the Baltal and Nunwan Base Camps as well as at Chandanwari and Domel and Camps enroute and the Camp Directors were asked to take all the required measures to ensure smooth and convenient movements of Yatris so that they do not face any difficulty whatsoever.

The Governor reiterated directions that all the agencies involved in the overall management and conduct of the pilgrimage must ensure close effective coordination to facilitate the Yatris, particularly in regard to the forward movement of the pilgrims to the Camps and onwards to the Holy Shrine.

The Governor also reiterated his earlier directions about the effective maintenance of sanitation and cleanliness at all the Camps in the Yatra area and, besides, cleanliness along both the Yatra routes. The CEO informed that a good number of workers are currently engaged for carrying out cleaning on round the clock basis and, besides, all the Camp Directors have been asked to launch special cleanliness drives in their respective Camps and ensure the appropriate disposal of all bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable wastes.

The CEO informed the Governor that as of July 1, evening 51291 Yatris had performed Darshan and the officials of the Shrine Board, various State Government Departments, Army, Para-military Forces, the State Police and all other concerned agencies have been performing their duties in close coordination, for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. He stated that the Yatra has so far been running smoothly, and all essential arrangements have been working well.

Wholesale traders call on CM

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 2: A deputation of Wholesale Traders Association led by its President Nisar Ahmad Kathichu today called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and presented him a memorandum of demands pertaining to the development of trade and commerce in the State.

Briefing about the demands, the deputation focused on the necessity of having a warehouse for wholesale traders in Srinagar on the pattern of the one exists in Jammu.

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, B. B. Vyas and Commissioner Secretary Industries, Shantmanu was present in the meeting among other officers.

The Chief Minister directed the Commissioner Secretary Industries to identify suitable sites for development of warehouse for the traders of Srinagar to help them flourish the trade activities and help in enhancing job opportunities for youth.



Judge Advocate General, Maj Gen PS Rathore interacting with officer at Northern Command on Tuesday.

Judge Advocate General visits Northern Command

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 2: Judge Advocate General Army Maj Gen PS Rathore is on a two day visit to Northern Command.

During his visit, he will be discussing important pending disciplinary cases with Dy JAG Command and other officers. The JAG will also be meeting Lt Gen HJS Sachdev, Chief of Staff, Northern Command and discuss important legal issues with him.

Department of Judge Advocate General is one of the oldest organs of the Indian Army. Its origin and evolution in England can be traced back to the British "Articles of War 1385", but the appointment of Judge Advocate General was introduced in India in 1841.

Currently Maj Gen PS Rathore is the Judge Advocate General and he holds this appointment since Feb 2012. The General Officer was commissioned in 12th Bn of Rajputana Rifles on 2 September 1978 and attended important courses in Infantry. Being a law graduate he got permanently transferred to Judge Advocate General's department in 1988. Since then he has held various coveted positions in the department including Commandant - Institute of Military Law, Kamptee and Dy JAG HQ

South Western Command and HQ Central Command.

On his arrival, he was received by Brig PK Sharma, Dy JAG who briefed him about pending disciplinary and Court cases. The General Officer met all the officers of JAG department Northern Command and while addressing them he stressed the need to strive for excellence and live up to the motto of JAG's department which is "Nyaya Eva Dharm", i.e. "Justice alone is the Supreme Duty". He praised the hard work being put in by the Officers and Civilian Staff of the Department and exhorted them to continue doing their best as they are serving in an Operational Command and have immense responsibility in early dispensation of justice.

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