



Speaker Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul addressing gathering at Srinagar on Sunday.

# Gul visits fire sufferers, assures every possible help

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 7: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul today visited Rathpura area in the old Srinagar city and took stock of the damages caused due to fire incident in which five houses were burnt yesterday. He directed the revenue authorities to assess the losses caused due to fire and submit the report to the Government so that necessary relief would be sanctioned in favour of the fire victims under Natural Calamity Relief Fund.

The Speaker on the spot distributed cheques worth Rs.5000 to each family as ex-gratia relief and announced that Rs.25000 will be given to fire sufferers out of Constituency Development Fund (CDF), besides 2 months free ration.

During his visit, the people of the area met with the Speaker and apprised him about the incident and other problems being faced by them.

The Speaker expressed sympathies with the families of fire victims and assured them that

every possible help would be provided to the fire affected families at an earliest. Later, the Speaker visited the Nowpora Waniyafunkadal area and attended the function of Sufi poet Abul Wani organized by the Radio Kashmir Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that contribution of Sufi saints like Rehman Dar, Saj Newaz Shaib, Samas Faqir and Noor Din Noorani (RA) to the culture, literature and religion will be remembered for ever. He said that these saints have given the message of communal harmony and brotherhood.

Responding to the demand about introduction of Kashmiri language as compulsory subject in the curriculum, Mr. Gul said that he will convene a meeting with the higher authorities of education and other concerned departments in this regard shortly.

Referring to the developmental works under execution in the Iddgah constituency, the Speaker said that the construc-

tion work on various micro and macro developmental projects under different sectors is a pace in the area and hoped that Iddgah will be developed as amodel constituency in the State. He announced Rs. 1 lakh out of CDF for the development of Asthan Sharief of Abulwani. He said that four Community Halls included Noorbagh, Gassi Mohalla, Iddgah and Rehman Dar Memorial Community Hall Nowpora have been sanctioned in the constituency and will be completed soon.

Later, the Speaker visited Jenab Saboor Baba Shaib Balsthal Asthan Sharief and paid obeisance there. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the State.

Enroute, several deputations met the Speaker and apprised him about their individual and collective problems which include repairs and renovation of lanes and drains.

The Speaker heard them patiently and assured them that their genuine demands will be looked into.

# Steps afoot to improve basic facilities, develop all areas: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture Raman Bhalla today said that liberal funding being provided by the Union Government to the State has greatly helped in raising the socio-economic standard of the people of the State.

He said several projects have been completed and many are in pipeline to develop urban and rural pockets with improved basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, healthcare, education, road connectivity, besides better lanes and drains.

The Minister was interacting with the inhabitants of old Channi Himmat after dedicating the upgraded 20000 gallon per hour booster pump installed to improve the drinking water supply to Sant Mohalla, Khudpur, Sandh Mohalla and Charak Mohalla, here today.

Mr. Bhalla said after upgradation of the booster pump of old Channi Himmat tube well, no house of Sant Mohalla, Sandh Mohalla, Khudpur and Charak Mohalla would remain without adequate drinking water facility. He asked the PHE Department to maintain sufficient supply of water to all these localities.

"It is the duty of the Government to provide safe drinking water to people of every nook and corner of the State", Mr. Bhalla said, adding that there was no constraint of funds under PHE and ERA sectors. He called upon the residents to use drinking water judi-

ciously. The Minister said Government was fully aware about the problems of every section of the society, adding that in this connection every effort was being made to mitigate the same on priority. He called upon the people to cooperate with the executing agencies in completing the ongoing projects within stipulated time frame.

Earlier, at Nanak Nagar Sector-6 and at Kashmiri Mohalla in Dilli, the Minister kick started construction work of five lanes and drains, for which Government has earmarked Rs. 23 lakh. He asked the JMC engineers to complete the ongoing works within stipulated time frame.

Responding to the demands of Kashmiri Mohalla in Dilli, Mr. Bhalla asked the officers to immediately start the construction work of nallah protection wall so that the people do not face any inconvenience during rainy season.

The Minister informed that Government has allocated Rs. 68 crore for modernization of nallahs flowing through Dilli, Sainik Colony, Channi Himmat, Gangyal and its adjoining areas, adding that the project would start soon.

Later, the Minister also visited Channi Himmat Housing Colony and inspected the ongoing construction work of 'Barsati Nallah', for which Government has earmarked Rs. 15 crore. He asked the ERA to complete the 1775 meter long nallah within stipulated time frame by using quality material.

# Spirit of camaraderie imperative for harmonious growth of society: Sadhotra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: Minister for Planning and Development, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Sunday exhorted people to imbibe the spirit of fellow feeling and universal brotherhood and translate it in day to day dealings for the harmonious growth of society. "The essence of every religion is promoting love and shunning hatred and this spirit should be guiding principle for us all", Mr. Sadhotra said at a ceremony held for installing holy idols of Gods and Goddesses at the historic temple of Lord Shiva at Topesher Khani this afternoon.

The Minister also participated in Mahayaga held for universal peace and prayed for the well being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the devotees at the sidelines of the ceremony, the Minister cautioned the people against nefarious designs of elements, hell-bent to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the state and to derail the process of development and progress undertaken under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He appealed the people to remain united and frustrate designs of elements inimical to peace by maintaining age old tradition of brotherhood and communal harmony.

He said peace is imperative for implementing various developmental projects and welfare schemes. He solicited



Minister for Planning, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra addressing devotees on Sunday.

support of all for sustaining the peace by promoting amity between various communities.

"People were major stakeholders in the developmental plank", he said while soliciting their cooperation in this effort.

The Minister said numerous measures were underway to combat corruption and ensur-

ing transparency in the functioning of administration, on both physical and financial sectors. He reaffirmed the Government resolve to ameliorate the lot of people, especially the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society, living in far-flung and remote areas of State.

# BPL children screened for free congenital heart surgery

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 7: Fifty children from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, suffering from congenital heart disorders, were screened at GB Panth Hospital Srinagar by Dr. Khalid Mohiuddin Cardiologist, out of which 19 children were short-listed for final screening at Jammu on 21st July, where they will be checked by Dr. Iyer from Fortis Escorts Heart Institute Delhi for free heart surgery.

The screening was organised by Rotary Club of Rajouri in association with Rotary Clubs of J&K, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar, GB Panth

Hospital and Kid's Rehabilitation Clinic, Society for Special Children, Pandrethan, Srinagar under the scheme "Gift of Life".

The selected children will be provided free open heart surgery at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute New Delhi for congenital heart disorders. The screening was inaugurated by Dr. Muneer Masoodi, Medical Superintendent GB Panth Hospital in presence of Gazanfar Ali Secretary, J&K Social Welfare Board and Rtn. Amir Ali. The Cardiologist was assisted by Dr. Monisa Mir, Dr. Hina Bashir and Zahoor Ahmed, Echo Technician, on a voluntary basis.



Cong MLC Jugal Kishore addressing party workers convention at Vijaypur on Sunday.

# One-day Congress workers' convention held

Excelsior Correspondent

VIJAYPUR, July 7: One-day convention of Congress workers from Vijaypur Assembly constituency was organised, here today by senior leader Arun Sharma.

Former Minister and MLC Jugal Kishore Sharma was chief guest in the convention, which was attended by a large number of Congress workers from 45 Panchayat Halqas in the constituency. Several Panchs and Sarpanchs also took part the convention wherein Congress programmes and policies were highlighted.

While addressing the gathering, Jugal Kishore exhorted the Congress workers to work hard for strengthening the party at grass root level and predicted that Ghulam Nabi Azad would be next Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir.

Supporting Arun Sharma for the party mandate in next

Assembly elections, Jugal Kishore said that the Congress will not forgive those who had played role in fall of Azad-led coalition Government in 2008.

Earlier, Arun Sharma highlighted several local issues and alleged that the Congress workers were being discriminated by the local MLA and some Ministers from National Conference. He appealed the party workers to remain united and defeat the opportunist forces.

Others who spoke on the occasion, included Bishamber Singh Slathia, Baisakhi Ram, Om Parkash, Sardari Lal, Gyan Chand, Sumter Singh, Dr Chajju Ram, Capt Bhola Nath, Capt Baldev, Rehmat Ali, Rani Devi, Dr Darshan Singh and Pammri Choudhary.

They assured that the party workers would leave no stone unturned for victory of Arun Sharma and Congress party.

# 1 killed, 22 injured in accidents

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 7: One person was killed and 22 others injured in different road accidents across the Kashmir valley today, police said.

Police said a man, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, son of Ali Mohammad of Bohrikadal, Srinagar, was injured when a minibus JK01F/2861 hit him near Ziyarat Dastagir Sahib here. Ahmad was shifted to SMHS Hospital for treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries.

DSP Traffic, Rural, Mukhtar Ahmad, was injured when he was hit by an Auto load carrier on highway in Anantnag. He has been shifted to Sub District Hospital, Bijbehara, for treatment, police said.

In another collision between two unidentified motorcycles at Lalpora Bazar, Kupwara, a pedestrian, Suhail Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Gani of Kralpora was injured. Mir has been shifted to a hospital for treatment, police said.

In another accident, an unidentified vehicle hit a boy Mohammad Youns Khatana son of Mohammad Yazoob of Thanda Pani, Sunderbani at Sonamarg in district Ganderbal. The injured has been shifted to hospital for treatment, police said.

Two persons were injured when a Tavera JK05C/9534 rolled down in river Jehlum at Uranbowa, Baramulla. The injured have been shifted to hospital for treatment.

Five passengers were injured in a collision between a Tavera JK05D/1411 and Alto car JK05D/942 near Khargam Water Pump in Baramulla. The injured

have been shifted to Sub District Hospital Pattan for treatment, police officials said.

11 passengers were injured when a Tata Mini Bus JK05/7522 turned upside down at Jithar Kachwa, Budgam. The injured have been shifted to Sub District Hospital, Chandosa, for treatment, where from six injured have been referred to District Hospital, Baramulla for further treatment.

In another collision between two unidentified motorcycles at Lalpora Bazar, Kupwara, a pedestrian, Suhail Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Gani of Kralpora was injured. Mir has been shifted to a hospital for treatment, police said.

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# Youth commits suicide

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: A youth allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance at his residence in tehsil Bishnah.

As per reports, Rahul, son of Kamal of tehsil Bishnah allegedly consumed some poisonous stuff at his residence.

Finding him unconscious, family members shifted him to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) yesterday, where he failed to respond to the treatment and breathed his last today.

The body has been handed over to family members for last rites after completion of legal formalities.

A case has been registered and investigation started to ascertain the reason behind such extreme step.

# Summer Camp organized by HBET concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: The 15-days Summer Camp organized by Harbans Bhalla Educational Trust (HBET) concluded with a colourful closing ceremony here today.

Most of the students presented various cultural activities on the occasion, while the others shared their experiences regard-

University and professionals from various fields and provided free hostel facility, study material, medical care and good food by the Trust.

Students were taken to educational tours to Siyad Baba and Panchari.

Organisers claimed that this type of initiative not only brings out the hidden talent in the stu-



Students being felicitated during concluding ceremony of Summer Camp organized by Harbans Bhalla Educational Trust.

AP Sachdeva was the chief guest on the occasion, who appreciated the role of the organizers in enhancing the standard of education.

The Camp was attended by 41 students from 7th to 10th class, hailing from backward and rural areas of Gajansoo, Hiranagar, Arnia, Rahein, Goupar, Surinsar, Jourian and Bishnah etc.

Students were given best educational coaching by some of the best lecturers from Jammu

to nourish it.

Several sports activities were performed by the students. They were also provided yoga classes by well trained teachers. Physical training was also imparted to the students.

According to the organizers some local donors were invited for interaction with students who asked them to work hard and take full advantage of its support being provided to them by the Trust for their bright future.



CEC LAHDC Rigzin Spalbar and VC KU Prof Talat Ahmad chairing a meeting at Leh on Sunday.

# KU team reviews progress on Leh campus

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, July 7: A team of Professors from Kashmir University headed by Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad had a meeting with Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Leh Rigzin Spalbar at Council Secretariat and reviewed the progress on Leh University campus.

The meeting was also attended by EC Higher Education Gh Abass Abadi, DC, Leh Simrandeep Singh, CEO, Leh, Principals of Higher Secondary Schools of Leh and Chushot block and professors of Degree College, Leh.

While appraising the progress of ongoing works of Leh University Campus at Taru Thang, Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad said that Kashmir University under its 5 years Integrated Course scheme intends to introduce three subjects in Leh University with its commission which includes Earth Science (covering Geology, Geography & Disaster

Management) and Travel and Tourism. He asked LAHDC to choose third subject for which 10+2 students are eligible. Prof Talat Ahmad requested LAHDC, Leh to advertise these subjects amongst the students of Leh so that they can prepare themselves from today onwards.

CEC Rigzin Spalbar, while welcoming Vice Chancellor and his team to Leh, expressed satisfaction over the initial ongoing works of Leh University at Taru Thang and assured all possible help from LAHDC, Leh for its earliest completion.

A power point presentation of the building designs of Leh University was also presented in the meeting.

EC Higher Education Gh Abass Abadi put fourth some important issues of the Leh College including conducting of annual exams timely, establishment of sub office of Kashmir University at Leh and conducting of seminars etc at Leh college by Kashmir University in coming months.



Dilapidated condition of road from Bakshi Nagar to AG office.

# Repeated pleas for restoration of road fall on deaf ears

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: The repeated pleas for the restoration of the road from Bakshi Nagar to AG Office seem to be falling on deaf ears, as till date the said road has not been restored after evacuation work some two years back.

A meeting of the residents of Shakti Nagar was held, in which speakers alleged that the road from Pawan Ice Cream, Bakshi Nagar to AG Office is in dilapidated condition for the last over one and a half year but the concerned authorities were not paying any attention towards that.

They said that said road after excavation process has not been restored till date, creating manifold problems for the residents and also for the commuters.

"Hundreds of vehicles pass

to and fro on this road on daily basis and the dust particles emitting out are creating health hazards for the residents and also creating problems for the shopkeepers", they added.

Traffic snarls have also become a concern, but no one from the concerned authorities is paying any heed towards this, they said.

Deep holes on the road have also become the cause of concern as during the night, the commuters fail to identify the holes, leading to accidents.

"We met many concerned officials, but nothing has been done compelling us to adopt alternative path", they asserted.

The residents warned of dire consequences, if their demand of restoration of the said road would not be conceded at the earliest.



A donar donating blood at Udhampur on Sunday.

# Sant Nirankari Mandal organizes 5th blood donation camp

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 7: Sant Nirankari Mandal in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society and Blood and Transfusion Department of Government Medical College organised 5th blood donation camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, here.

The camp was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Yasha Mudgal, during which 100 units of blood was donated by the devotees. Yasha Mudgal in her speech

appreciated the Mission's contribution towards social welfare and said all their activities are marked by a great spirit of discipline.

DDC added that by these kind of social works, Nirankari Mission spreads message of brotherhood, love, humility and humanity.

Earlier, Ajit Singh, Zonal Incharge, Sant Nirankari Mandal presented the welcome address.

Among others present were Dr Ashu, Dr Sushant, Dr VP Sharma, Rattan Lal, Manohar Lal, Girdhari Lal and local citizens.

# Shastri demands exemption of DA from Income Tax

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) president Subash Shastri today demanded total exemption of Dearness Allowance from the ambit of Income Tax as DA is directly linked with the price index.

Addressing a well attended NMC workers rally here, Shastri said that the price escalation is directly linked with the DA of the salaried class and pensioners and hence there was no justification of imposing income tax on the Allowance. He asked Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram to reconsider the practice.

Shastri also demanded provision with regard to 20 per cent interim relief to the Central and State Government employees and pensioners, merger of 50 per cent of DA into basic pay/pension and

enhancement of monthly wages of daily wagers to Rs 10,000.

Pleading the cause of daily wagers working in the various Government Departments, Shastri also appealed to the Chief Minister, Finance Minister and Chief Secretary to amend SRO 64 and formulate comprehensive policy for regularization of all daily wagers/Casual and seasonal workers engaged after March 1994. Shastri said that such an amendment in the SRO should be effected before 31 July 2013 so that the new regularization policy becomes operational from coming Independence Day as a gift to working class.

Among others who also spoke on the occasion, included Rajan Babu Khajuria, Sham Lal Sharma, Sunil Kochhar, Surinder Kumar, Anil Singh Slathia, Rakesh Padma, Yog Raj, Jentoo Ram, Madan Lal Bhagat and Raghu Pal.