

Locals allege desecration of holy book, IG BSF denies

4 killed, 43 injured in firing at Gool as mob attacks BSF camp thrice

SC quashes CET for medical courses

NEW DELHI, July 18:

The Supreme Court today quashed the Medical Council of India's (MCI) notification for holding common entrance tests for MBBS, BDS and post-graduate medical courses. A three-judge bench by a 2:1 verdict held that the MCI notification was ultra vires of the Constitution. The apex court, however, made it clear that its verdict will not affect the admissions which have already taken place. The majority verdict by Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir and Justice Vikramjit Sen said that MCI is not empowered to prescribe all India medical entrance tests.

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7 held for issuing threat posters

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: Police in Anantnag arrested seven persons for pasting threatening posters of Hizbul Mujahideen in Anantnag town and recovered incriminating printing material from them.

A police spokesman said here that last week threatening posters were found pasted around few places at Lal Chowk, Reshi Bazaar in Anantnag town. The poster bore the names of 33 people who were threatened to stay away from police by HM outfit.

The spokesman said that a case (FIR No. 225/2013 under Section 505,506, 120(b) RPC and 13 ULA Act) was registered and

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BOPEE response fictitious story: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: Jammu and Kashmir High Court today rapped the Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) for its report on leakage of papers in the last month's competitive examinations, calling it a "fictitious story".

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Verinder Singh and Justice Muzaffar Hussain Attar after pursuing the report observed their dissatisfaction with the report.

"We are not satisfied with it (the report). It seems to be a fictitious story made by someone", the court observed.

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2 killed, 21 injured in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Two persons were killed while at least 21 others injured, four of them seriously, when an over loaded mini-bus skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Kalakote area of district Rajouri today.

Reports said the accident took place at around 12 noon when the ill-fated vehicle No. JK-11/4049, was on its way to Tattapani from Kalakote town. As the vehicle reached near Tundla, due to alleged rash driving the driver lost control and it landed into nearly 100 feet deep gorge. The driver jumped away and escaped from the spot. Total 22 passengers were onboard the 16-seater mini-bus.

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Several Govt offices, vehicles torched, damaged in Ramban

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 18: An indefinite curfew was clamped in Ramban at 5 pm today after mob protesting the killing of four civilians in security forces firing and injuries to 43 others including a BSF jawan and 14 police constables, at Dharam in Gool-Sangaldan area went on rampage torching and damaging Government vehicles and trying to set ablaze and damage the offices of Deputy Commissioner and police station in Ramban town.

Police and para-military had to use lathicharge and tear-smoke shells to disperse the rampaging mob even after announcement of curfew. The Amarnath yatra convoy, which was stranded between Batote to Chanderkoot on the National Highway right from the morning, was cleared only after imposition of curfew amidst tight security arrangements.

Four civilians including a Chemistry Lecturer were killed and 43 others including a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan and 14 constables and rest civilians were injured, some of them seriously, when mob attacked BSF camp of 76 battalion at Dharam in Gool-Sangaldan area thrice—first during night and twice this morning, about 48 kilometers from Ramban this morning forcing the security personnel to retaliate.

The mob protesting against alleged desecration of holy book by the security personnel at Dharam last night attacked the BSF camp with heavy stoning. After the killing of four civilians in the firing, the mob intensified protests along with dead bodies seeking action against the BSF and a high

Highway. Protests also took place at various places across the State including Doda, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, Rajouri and Budhal, Mahore and Dharmari but they were peaceful. Authorities have sounded alert in the entire State and asked the administration to watch the situation during Friday prayers

and admitted in the GMC Jammu in critical condition". Mr Krishna later flew to Dharam on spot assessment of the situation.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the State Government has also ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident and deputed Minister of

Higher Secondary School Thatharka, Abdul Latief son of Abdul Rashid Bakerwal, a resident of Jasman, Gool, Javed Ahmad son of Abdul Sattar Manhas R/o Gool, Dharam and

day long protests, yielded and took the bodies home for burial tomorrow. The State Government has ordered removal of Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Sham Vinod Meena for alleged "inept handling" of the situation and replaced him with MH Malik, Director Estates.

Killings unacceptable: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while extending his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families has strongly condemned the Gool incident calling it unacceptable.

Immediately after the incident, Omar spoke to Union Home Minister, Sushil Kumar Shinde, who ordered a probe into the incident and assured that any use of excessive force or irresponsible action will be dealt with strictly

The State Government has also ordered a magisterial enquiry to determine the exact sequence of events.

Condemning the incident, Omar, in a statement, said "It is unfortunate that despite of costly lessons learnt in 2008 and

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Former SKIMS Director injured in attack, 2 security guards shot dead

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 18: A prominent cardiologist and former Director of Jammu and Kashmir's premier hospital, SK Institute of Medical Sciences was critically injured and his two security guards were killed when militants attacked him in South Kashmir township of Pampore this afternoon.

"Militants shot dead two Personal Security Guards Dr Sheikh Jalal at Pampore in South Kashmir this afternoon. He was

injured in the shootout," Deputy Inspector General of Police South Kashmir Vijay Kumar told Excelsior.

Dr Jalal was removed to hospital for treatment. He was hit by three bullets one each in the left eye, belly and hand. He was rushed to SKIMS hospital in a critical condition.

The two security guards have been identified as Tariq Ahmad son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat of Bagyas Safa Kadal and Perwaiz Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Majid Wani of Qaymoo, Kulgam.

Dr Jalal had gone to Pampore to offer condolence to one of his acquaintance. When Dr Jalal along with his two guards were coming out of the house, the militants were waiting outside who fired at them killing two cops on the spot while Dr Jalal received injuries.

The attack comes a day after a Hizbul Mujahideen trail militant and former security guard of Hizbul Mujahideen supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, was killed in a grenade

attack. Police blamed militants for the attack, but Hizbul Mujahideen accused the cops of stage managing the attack to eliminate Shakeel Ahmad Kasana, who was arrested last year.

Yesterday Hizbul Mujahideen warned to avenge the killing of Shakil Ahmed. Hizbul Mujahideen spokesperson Baleeg-u-Din told a local news agency yesterday that Hizbul intensify its attacks on Kashmir police and would avenge the killing of Shakil Ahmed.

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