

Houses collapse, water enters many localities

Rains create havoc, Chenab flows near alert mark

*3 killed, 14 injured as bus slips into gorge

Gopal Sharma
JAMMU, July 20: Rain created havoc in many parts of Jammu region since last night

es and shops, affecting normal life of the people while water entered many localities in Jammu city and other towns in Kathua and Samba dis-

a nallah resulting into the death of three persons and causing injuries to 14 others. Mighty river Chenab was heavily flooded and flowing

Pargwal, Jourian, Khour and Kanha Chak of district Jammu. Other rivers including Ravi, Ujh, Tarnah, Basantar and Tawi were also swollen but Ujh and Basantar witnessed heavy flood. Prompting Flood Control authorities to sound alert in the areas down-stream.

Due to flash flood in many nallahs, the movement of traffic was also affected in Kathua, Billawar, Basohli, Hiranagar, Samba, Ghagwal, Purmandal and Akhnour area. Due to heavy flood in Bhabar Nallah near Rajpura (Samba) on border road, a large number of vehicles on border road remained stranded for hours together. Water level in Chenab was nearly 28 ft at Akhnour, just 5 ft below danger mark. It however, nearly touched the alert mark. In Tawi, the water level was also below danger mark.

A bund along the border breached near Ramgarh as a result the water entered the fields of the people at Barota camp causing damage to public property. Dy Commissioner Samba R K Verma and Tehsildar, Vijaypur also visited the area and took stock of the

situation. The heavy rain since last night has claimed at least four lives so far while over a dozen houses have collapsed including a school in old city area. A long wall of a factory collapsed in Bari Brahmana area early morning today while an old house in Kalijani area of Jammu city housing a private school also collapsed. No loss of life was reported in the building collapse but property worth lakhs was damaged.

A passenger bus slipped into a 100 feet deep gorge at Dundak near Surankot in Poonch this morning as a protection wall of the road suddenly collapsed due to heavy rain. Eyewitnesses said that Jammu bound Poonch route bus No. JK02AP/4369 gave passage to a vehicle coming from the other side. It was raining heavily and visibility was also poor. The retaining wall of the road on nalla side got collapsed and the vehicle rolled down into 100 feet deep nallah after hitting against a tree.

Three persons were killed and fourteen others including driver were injured. DC Poonch



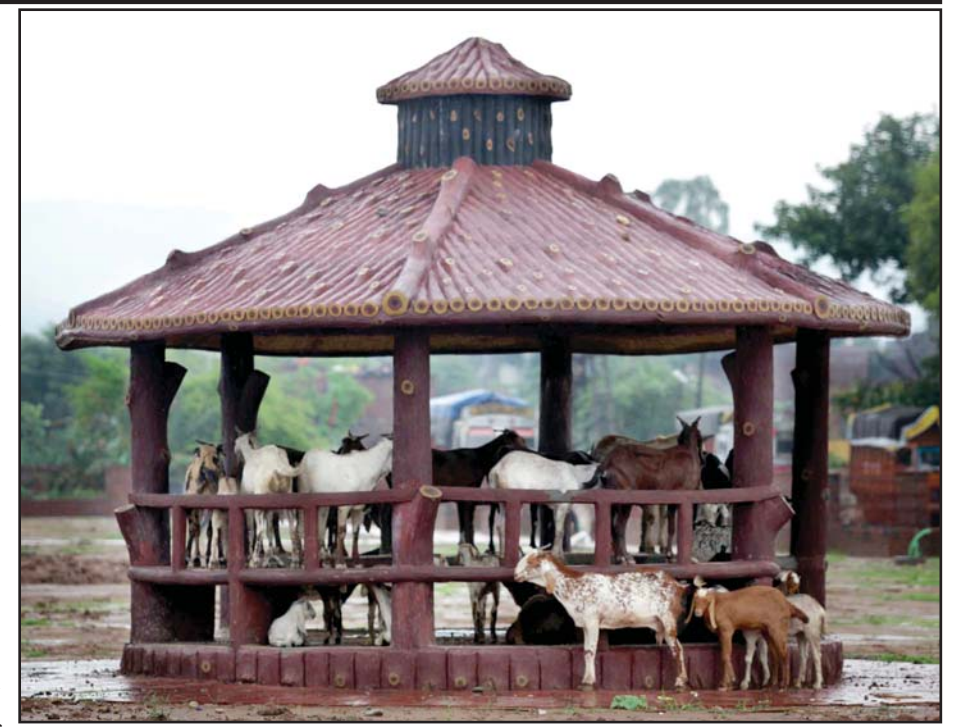
A house which collapsed during rain at Kalijani in Jammu on Saturday. More pics on page 3 & 4.

as several rivers and nallahs were swollen with flash floods, causing damage to many houses

triets, whereas, during heavy rain near Surankot in Poonch this morning a bus slipped into

near alert mark this evening and the authorities sounded alert in the low lying areas of Akhnour,

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Shelter from rain... -Excelsior/Rakesh

ASI's body fished out

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 20: The body of ASI Habib-Ullah, who had drowned in Lidder near Chandanwari in Pahalgam, was fished out from Nallah Lidder near Zig Morh today.

The police officer went missing on June 8. The dead body was handed over to his relatives for last rites.

Spl DG BSF starts probe in firing

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 20: BSF Special Director General Dilip Trivedi today conducted preliminary inquiry into Dharam, Ramban firing incident in which four persons were killed and 42 others were injured.

Mr Trivedi, who has been deputed to the spot by Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, took ground reports after meeting civilian, police and BSF officials to ascertain the circumstances leading to the firing by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on July 18.

The BSF Special DG visited the 76 Battalion belt area in Ramban and took statements of the BSF patrol party, which had intercepted Mohammed Latif, who had allegedly instigated the mob that attacked a BSF camp, official sources said.

Members of the patrol party provided pictorial evidence to the BSF Special DG in connection with the attack on the BSF camp by the mob.

Mr Trivedi also spoke to police and civilian officers (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

FSL confirms pesticide in Mid Day meal

PATNA, July 20:

A forensic report today confirmed the presence of poisonous pesticide in the Mid Day meal served to the students of the school in Chhapra where 23 children died after taking the contaminated food.

The Forensic Science Laboratory report found Monocrotophos, an organophosphorous compound in the samples of oil from the container, food remains on the platter and mixture of rice with vegetables on Aluminium tasla (utensil). Additional Director General of Police (HQ) Ravinder Kumar told reporters making the report public.

Monocrotophos is used as a pesticide for agricultural purposes. It is very toxic to human beings and other animals, the ADG said quoting the FSL report.

The report confirmed the Bihar Government's apprehension that the food given to the children of Dharmasati Gandaman primary school at Chhapra was poisoned.

A total 23 children died after eating the meal while 24 others and the cook Manju Devi are undergoing treatment at Patna Medical College and Hospital. (PTI)

BJP leader hacked to death

SALEM/CHENNAI, July 20:

BJP's Tamil Nadu unit General Secretary V Ramesh has been hacked to death by unidentified assailants near his house in Salem that sparked an outrage in the party which gave a call for a statewide bandh on July 22.

A total of 17 stab injuries were found on the body of Ramesh, doctors at the Salem Government hospital said.

52-year-old Ramesh was brutally attacked by a four-member unidentified gang while he was returning home after visiting the party office to discuss party affairs at around 9 pm last night in Salem, Salem range Police DIG Sanjay Kumar said. Police said Ramesh died on the spot.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

No curfew in Kashmir today

Clashes break out, 76 injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 20: Curfew continued in Srinagar and other major towns of Kashmir valley for second day today in protest against the Border Security Force firing in Gool, Ramban. At least 76 people including large number of security men were injured in clashes that broke out at several places since yesterday.

Curfew that was imposed in Kashmir valley yesterday morning to prevent any flare up in violence remained in force in Srinagar and major towns of Kashmir valley.

An official spokesman said here that there will be no curfew tomorrow in Srinagar and other major town across Kashmir valley. He, however, said that there may be some restrictions on the movement of people and vehi-

cles in some sensitive parts of Kashmir valley.

Police and para-military Central Reserve Police (CRPF) remained deployed in Srinagar city and other major towns across Kashmir valley to prevent protests.

They had erected steel barricades and concertina razor wire across main roads in Srinagar and major towns of Kashmir valley to block the movement of traffic and people.

A police spokesman said here that the situation throughout Kashmir valley remained peaceful today. "However, there were stone pelting reported from Tahab Chowk and Newa in Pulwama, Cement Bridge and Azadung in Baramulla, Papehan, Gulshan Chowk and Naidkhai in Bandipora, a couple of places in Shopian, Khudwani

in Kulgam and Galwanpora Humhama in Budgam", the spokesman added.

He said that 31 police and CRPF men and 8 civilians were injured in clashes across Kashmir valley today.

The spokesman said that 59 people, including 49 police and CRPF men, were injured in violent clashes with protesters on Friday.

Clashes broke out at Khuwani in South Kashmir between protesters and the security forces this afternoon. As the protesters were large in number and security forces fired rubber bullets to disperse them during which 5 persons including 3 women were injured. They were removed to Anantnag district hospital for treatment.

The injured have been identified as Shanawaz Ahmad Shah, (Contd on page 4 Col 4)

4694 perform darshan

Amarnath yatra resumes after 2 days

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 20: After remaining suspended for two days following protests in Valley and Ramban district of Jammu region after Gool episode on July 18, the holy Amarnath yatra was resumed from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu base camp this evening.

Confirming that the yatra was resumed this evening an official spokesman told Excelsior that 1,834 pilgrims left the base camp here by 1735 hours in a cavalcade of 56 vehicles for holy cave under tight security measures.

They included 1256 male, 355 female, 26 children and 97 Sadhus.

Meanwhile, the yatris started their return journey from Baltal and Nunwan-Pahalgam base camps towards Jammu late this evening after they were not allowed to proceed towards Jammu by the authorities for two days as widespread protests rocked Kashmir valley and Ramban district of Jammu region after Gool firing.

The spokesman said over 150 vehicles carrying yatris left the two base camps in Valley for Jammu by this evening under tight security arrangements. These yatris will reach Jammu early tomorrow morning.

The spokesman said that the yatratis at Baltal and Nunwan were allowed to proceed towards Jammu this evening. These yatris will proceed towards Jammu and will not be stopped anywhere at National Highway for night halt, he added.

He said likewise the yatris who left Jammu base camp for holy cave will be allowed to



Pilgrims assemble at Chandanwari camp before leaving towards Jammu on Saturday. -Excelsior/Sajad Sameer

proceed for Nunwan and Baltal during the night and will not be stopped at any where for night halt so that they can reach their destinations early tomorrow morning to start the trekking.

The spokesman said 4,694 pilgrims performed darshan at

yatra started on June 28, he added. Spokesman said 650 pilgrims left for holy cave from Baltal via shorter 16 km track early this morning under tight security arrangements. These pilgrims performed darshan in (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Unable to meet for 8 months, Sagheer CSC gets another extension

*Consensus may elude Panel again

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 20: Notwithstanding the fact that it failed to hold a single meeting during its seventh extension of six months from November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013, the Government has once again extended tenure of a Cabinet Sub Committee (CSC) on high profile Justice Sagheer Ahmed Working Group report for six months to evolve a consensus on vital issues raised by it.

This happened to be eighth extension of the eight-members CSC (four each from National Conference and Congress) since it was constituted in January 2010 by the order of the State Cabinet after Justice (retired) Sagheer Ahmed (now dead) had submitted his report to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in December 2009.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Government has extended the period of the CSC for another six months. The CSC term had expired on April 30 this year and since then its fate was hanging in balance in the absence of any Government direction on extension of the

term. Sources confirmed that the Government has extended term of the CSC for another six months with retrospective effect from April 30, 2013 when its previous extension had expired. A formal order to this effect by the General Administration Department (GAD) would be issued in next few days, they said.

Admitting that frequent extensions to the CSC were necessitated as the Committee hadn't been able to evolve consensus on some crucial recommendations especially on autonomy, the most controversial subject in the report in view of divergent views among the Alliance partners-National Conference and Congress.

Despite another extension, sources admitted that it was very difficult, or rather impossible, to evolve a consensus in the CSC on Sagheer recommendation due to different stands taken by the two Alliance partners.

Not a single meeting of the Committee was held during six months period of seventh extension ranging between November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013, which was attributed to reshuffle in the

Council of Ministry in which some members of the Panel were dropped from the Cabinet and later replaced with new faces, sources said.

The Government had reconstituted the CSC on February 18 after the Ministry reshuffle in which two members of the Committee-Qamar Ali Akhoun and Surjit Singh Slathia (both from NC) were dropped. CAPD and Transport Minister Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan and Planning Minister Ajay Sadhotra had replaced them.

The Committee headed by Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather now comprised Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mr Ramzan and Mr Sadhotra (all from NC), Housing Minister Raman Bhalla, PHE Minister Sham Lal Sharma, Urban Development Minister Rizgin Jora and Medical Education Minister Taj Mohi-ud-Din (all from Congress).

Sources said the Government has been left with no option but to grant eighth extension to the Committee unless it wanted the Panel to die its own death. (Contd on page 4 Col 4)

Only 45% schools inspected; no meeting of Monitoring Committee convened

HRD Ministry finds chinks in Mid Day Meal Scheme's implementation in J&K

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 20: At a time when there is lot of outcry over the death of students after taking poisoned food under Mid Day Meal Scheme in Bihar, all is not well in the implementation of this scheme in Jammu and Kashmir as the Department of School Education of the Union

Ministry of Human Resource and Development has pointed out several shortcomings in this regard and asked the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to overcome the same.

According to the analysis of the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme conducted by the concerned wing of the HRD Ministry on the basis of the

quarterly progress reports, Jammu and Kashmir has not been paying required attention towards the areas which otherwise deserve special focus so that nothing adverse takes place in the State.

As per the guidelines laid down by the HRD Ministry for guiding, monitoring and implementation of the scheme, State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary is required to meet at regular intervals to review the scheme and suggest policy measures for effective implementation of the programme. Moreover, it is mandatory on the part of the Steering Committee to give prior information about such meetings to the Government of India so that HRD Ministry's School Education and Literacy Department sends its representative.

"However, neither any State level nor District level meeting was convened by Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee during the 2012-13 financial year", the report of the HRD Ministry said. "This shows the level of seriousness towards monitoring of the scheme, whose ultimate aim is to ensure that no child remains hungry in the covered schools and the basic health and hygiene needs of the children are met in a safe and serene atmosphere", sources said.

Finding more chinks as far as monitoring, which is the integral part of implementation of the scheme and proper utilization of the funds, is concerned, the HRD Ministry said, "Only 45%

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

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* Physical verification of projects ...Page 6	JAMMU Possibility of rain/thundershower. TEMPERATURE Max: 26.5 Degree C Min: 23.4 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 10.0 per cent Lowest: 95.0 per cent Sunset on Sunday: 07.38 p.m. Sunrise on Monday: 05.40 a.m.
* Controversy over mining site	KASHMIR Possibility of rain/thundershower. TEMPERATURE Max: 25.7 Degree C Min: 21.8 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 78.0 per cent Lowest: 90.0 per cent
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