

**Pak trooper killed, another injured; BSF jawan, civilian wounded**

# Pak opens heavy firing on LoC, IB; uses RPGs, MMGs, HMGs

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 27: After small skirmishes, heavy firing today raged on along the Line of Control (LoC) at Kirni Shahpur and Mandi sub sec-

while Rangers opened another front on the International Border (IB) in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district this evening causing injuries to a Havaldar of the Border Security Force (BSF) and a

over to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) from forward village of Nakerkot in Digwar area of Poonch district this morning. A FIR has been filed against her.

There were no reports of any

tinued till late this evening.

"It was heavy arms firing with Pakistan using Rocket Projectile Guns (RPGs), Mortar Guns, Medium Machine Guns (MMGs) and Heavy Machine Guns (HMGs) prompting the Indian Army to retaliate," official sources said.

Though there was no word from the Army on casualties suffered by Pakistan troops, sources confirmed that one trooper across the LoC was killed and another injured when Indian side retaliated to silence the Pakistani guns.

The dead Pakistani soldier has been identified as Asim Iqbal and the injured as Mohammad Khan.

Ambulances on Pakistan side were seen moving across Shahpur and Mandi taking the dead and injured to nearby town of Rawlakote in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Some posts on Pakistan side including Ring Control, Dakni Dhok, Neza Peer, Doda-1, Doda-2 and Cobra were reported to have suffered extensive damage. These posts,

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## Curfew re-imposed in Budgam, woman dies

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 27: Curfew was re-imposed in parts of Budgam district after a woman, who was injured early this week in security forces action to curb the sectarian clashes, succumbed to her injuries.

Curfew was relaxed for few hours last night in parts of the district where it was imposed on July 23 after large scale damage was caused to the property of both the sects during sectarian clashes.

A woman identified as Fatima of village Dadina, Budgam was injured on July 23 when the sectarian clashes were at its peak and around 25 houses were burnt in several Budgam villages and over 100 houses and scores of vehicles were damaged in the clashes. Police said that the woman succumbed to her injuries in SKIMS hospital early today.

JAMMU, July 27: The State Government has ordered transfer and posting of seven Incharge Executive Engineers (Electric) with immediate effect.

Tsewang Paljor has been transferred from JKSPDC, Leh and posted at PDD Leh vice Rachpal Singh who is transferred and posted at JKSPDC.

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A Gujjar walks to his destination with camels in Jammu.

—Excelsior/Rakesh

## 7 X-Ens transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

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## Mother main suspect in kids' killing

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 27: Police today said they believe the mother of the two kids who were murdered in Bemina this week is the prime suspect in killing them.

Addressing media persons at police headquarters, Senior Superintendent of Police Ashiq Bukhari said the investigations into the double-murder of the two kids at Bemina last week have found that the mother of these two children is the prime suspect in killing them.

Bukhari said they have completed the investigations and police is waiting for the Forensic reports and other technical parts like finger prints etc.

"The mother of the slain children seems to be mentally dis-

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## Stone pelting at Lone's motorcade

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 27: Minister for Higher Education Mohammad Akbar Lone's motorcade was attacked with stones in North Kashmir's Hajin area of Bandipora district by a group of youth.

The Minister had gone to Hajin area of his constituency to condole the demise of a political activist, Mushtaq Ahmed Ganaev. Scores of youth attacked his cavalcade when it reached near Shah-Gund Hajin, by resorting to stone pelting. Window panes of some of his vehicles were damaged in the stone pelting.

Reports said that the police resorted to tear gas shelling to disperse the youth. However, the youth continued to pelt stones on the

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## Pareek posted as new DIG BSF

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 27: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today ordered posting of Dharmendra Pareek as Deputy Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu Frontier Headquarters.

A BSF cadre officer, Mr Pareek has been designated as DIG (G) Frontier Headquarters, Jammu.

He would take charge of the new post next week, official sources said.

## Amarnath yatra touches 3.25 lakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 27: As pilgrimage to holy cave shrine of Amarnath ji completed 30 days, 3424 pilgrims performed darshan at the holy cave shrine in Anantnag district of South Kashmir Himalayas today.

With this, total number of pilgrims, who have performed yatra during this year's annual pilgrimage has gone up to 3,24,221.

The yatra was progressing smoothly, official sources said, adding the weather was normal during the day today.

Meanwhile, one more pilgrim has died after paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine taking death toll in the ongoing yatra to 12, sources said.

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Troops maintaining high alert during Pakistan firing at LoC in Poonch on Saturday. Another on page 7.

tors in Poonch district throughout the day leading to killing of one Pakistan Army soldier and injuries to another

civilian.

Amidst firing, a woman Azmat Bi wife of Shakeel Ahmad, aged about 32, crossed

casualties or damage on the Indian side in the heavy firing along the LoC in Poonch district that started at 7.30 am and con-

## Militants change strategy, carry out lethal attacks

### Insider's info on Hyderpora attack can't be ruled out: Police

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 27: "Security forces are investigating the possibility of insider's information about the movement of an Army convoy that was attacked at Hyderpora in Srinagar last month in which eight Army personnel were killed and over a dozen were injured", a senior police officer said here.

Militants chose an Army vehicle in the convoy with unarmed soldiers for the lethal attack on Hyderpora Bypass, a day before Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited Srinagar last month.

"We can't rule out insider's information about the particular vehicle of the convoy in which the Army men were without weapons. The attack was target-

ed at that vehicle only when there were up and down convoys plying on the highway. We are investigating various angles about what led to the targeting of that particular vehicle", the officer said.

He added that militants have infiltrated into security forces ranks but police have been able to identify and nab them. The officer cited the example of Constable Abdul Rashid Shigan and Sub-Inspector Shiv Kumar Sharma alias Sonu who were working at the behest of the militants and were involved in the militancy related incidents in the State.

"We were able to identify and arrest them. We can't rule out more infiltrations in police. Such infiltrations do take place in the security force ranks in

conflict situations", the officer said.

The officer said that militants in Kashmir have changed their strategy with the aim to inflict more casualties on security forces and in return incite them for collateral damage that could lead to public anger against the Government and street protests.

"Two police men were killed at point blank range in Hari Singh Street, Srinagar on June 22 in busy market place but we didn't fire back as it could have caused civilian casualties", the officer said.

The officer said that such type of provocative attacks where they were expecting collateral damage was Bemina attack on CRPF camp in March this year where children were

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## DDC submits revised plan for Cabinet approval

### Despite lapse of 5 yrs, people affected due to Baglihar await rehabilitation

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 27: About five years after the commissioning of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project on river Chenab, 145 families, whose residential and commercial structures were submerged due to impounding of reservoir at Pul Doda, have not yet been rehabilitated. These families have been denied their rightful claim till today despite the fact that a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan is prepared prior to the start of work on any such project.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that prior to the impounding of reservoir of Baglihar Hydroelectric Project, the district administration identified 134 kanal of land at village Paryote for the rehabilitation of the population of Pul Doda and Government kept an amount of Rs 5.85 crore for the purpose.

However, the land could not be acquired due to challenging of the decision in the court of law on the ground that acquiring agricultural land for rehabilitation of one set of people at the

cost of another set of populace would not be a justified action on the part of the Government, sources said.

"Thereafter the then district administration didn't pay any serious attention towards the identification of alternate land for rehabilitation of the affected population of Pul Doda", they said, adding "in the meantime, the alternate seven kilometer long road constructed by GREF was found unworthy for vehicular traffic because of sharp and dangerous curves and it was declared unsafe for use".

"The challenge to the Government identified land and unfruitful expenditure on construction of seven kilometer long road by the GREF clearly indicate that right from the very beginning the rehabilitation of the affected populace was not prioritized by the concerned authorities", sources said.

In the recent past, the Government decided to get alternate and safe road constructed through the Public Works Department and accordingly, District Development Commissioner, Mubarak Singh

got the papers of the land to be acquired for the road prepared and furnished revised plan to the Revenue Department for consideration and final decision, sources said.

They disclosed that even Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey during his visit to Doda district in the month of May had found it imperative to get expedited the rehabilitation of owners of structures (residential and commercial) submerged due to impounding of Baglihar reservoir.

"The revised plan will be discussed by the Chief Secretary in the first week of next month in a meeting to be attended by Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Planning and Revenue Departments", sources informed, adding "following the approval of the Chief Secretary, the Revenue Department will prepare a memorandum for placement before the Cabinet for final nod".

In reply to a question, sources said, "the revised plan is required to be approved by the

(Contd on page 7 Col 7)

## Misuse of SSA funds

### Govt fails to get physical verification of school buildings

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, July 27: Amidst reports of alleged mis-utilization of funds worth hundreds of crores of rupees, released for construction of school buildings under Centrally Sponsored Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, the State Government is finding it difficult to get the factual position as district administrations are not responding to the Education Minister's instructions in this regard.

Notwithstanding the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand, who holds the portfolio of Education Department, district administrations have failed to submit physical verification report on the newly constructed school buildings under SSA, highly placed authoritative sources informed the Excelsior.

As per the direction, all the Deputy Commissioners have been asked to conduct physical verification of newly constructed school buildings under SSA scheme in their respective districts vis-à-vis the funds released for the same and submit him a detailed report within one month, sources added.

However, even after more than three months since issuance

of order and a reminder also, there has been no reply from the administration of all the districts, except Samba, which has submitted its report on the physical verification of SSA school buildings, sources further said.

Pertinent to mention here that under SSA scheme, which was launched in the State in 2002, more than 10,000 new schools of Primary and Middle level were opened in Jammu and Kashmir. Hundreds of crores of rupees were released for operating these schools and construction of the buildings.

However, there are allegations that a number of these SSA school buildings exist only on papers as funds for the same were siphoned off by the concerned Education authorities in connivance with the contractors. A good number of school buildings and classrooms remained incomplete as the funds were either diverted for other purposes or went into pockets of the concerned authorities. Maximum irregularities in this regard reportedly took place in remote area of the districts like Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Kupwara, Karnah etc.

Taking serious note of reports of alleged mis-utilization of the SSA funds, the Education Minister Tara Chand issued a

direction to all the Deputy Commissioners in April last to conduct physical verification of SSA schools at ground level in their respective district and submit him a detailed report within one month.

As the district administrations failed to submit reports in this regard, the office of Education Minister issued a reminder in this regard, last month but again there has been no response from the concerned authorities, sources said.

So far, the Government has received the physical verification report of only Samba district where there was no complaint of such nature, sources added.

Unprecedented delay in furnishing the physical verification report despite reminder of the Education Minister's office virtually acknowledge the allegations of mis-utilization of funds worth hundreds of crores of rupees for construction of school buildings under SSA during the last one decade, sources explained.

When contacted, Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand confirmed that he has sought details on physical verification of school buildings under SSA scheme as Utilization

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