

2nd HM comdr killed in Shopian encounter 3 infiltrators killed in Nowgam, massive operation continues

Fayaz Bukhari
SRINAGAR, June 1: Army this evening killed three infiltrated militants during a gun battle in North Kashmir's of Army; Major General V K Khandare told Excelsior that a massive search operation was launched at Kayan Bowl in Tootmari Gali, Nowgam sector early today after Pakistani troops fired intermittently throughout the night to push in militants. "The search operation was launched at around 10 a.m. today along the LoC with



Troops take positions during an encounter in Nowgam on Saturday. —Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

Nowgam sector along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan", Army said here. The General Officer Commanding (GOC) Baramulla based 19-Division

Pakistan. Pakistani troops started firing last evening with small arms and it continued intermittently throughout the night", the GOC said.

"We had apprehensions that under the cover of firing by Pakistani troops, militants might have crossed the LoC and sneaked into our side. During the searches, infiltrated militants were spotted and in the gun battle three militants who had infiltrated from Pakistan last night were killed", the GOC said.

Major General Khandare said that 3 AK-47, 6 magazines, AK ammunition, 3 hand grenades, 3 UBGLs, one I-com radio set, one map, Pakistani made medicine and wind sheeters were recovered. "The search operation in the forests along the LoC continued", he added.

It may be mentioned here that this is the fourth ceasefire violation in North Kashmir since past one week and third in Nowgam sector.

Pakistani troops violated the (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

'PDP duped voters by abstaining from Legislature' Alarming power situation in Pak warning for India: CM

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, June 1: The alarming power situation in Pakistan should serve as warning for India to strengthen its electricity generation capabilities to meet future needs, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said today.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah speaking at a podium.

"(The worsening power situation in Pakistan) is a lesson for us... To focus on power generation to safeguard our future," Omar told a public gathering at Delina, 55-km from here on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road.

He earlier inaugurated a Rs 82.70 crore grid station and the 220KV double circuit Zainkote-Amargarh transmission line which is set to enhance net

available capacity in north Kashmir from the present 160MW to 300 MW.

It will also augment supply in parts of Budgam and Srinagar districts.

The newly-inaugurated transmission line is a first-of-its-kind in the Valley wherein specially designed multi-circuit towers will simultaneously carry four circuits of 220KV each.

Talking about the dangers of not augmenting electricity generation, Omar said the people of Pakistan have to face daily power cuts of up to 22 hours.

"I remember, more than a decade back, (when) India was facing a power shortage, Pakistan was approached for supply of some 500MW to India (although an agreement) did not materialise due to some political reasons.

"Now, Pakistan is approaching India to get 500MW," he said.

Taking PDP leadership to task for duping their voters by (Contd on page 9 Col 1)



A view of Sukh Sar lake flowing between Pir Panjal mountains. Photo by Sajid Amin

Court's directive to GMC Principal

SRINAGAR, June 1: The State High Court has asked the Principal Government Medical College Srinagar to fill up vacant posts in the Government Psychiatric hospital and improve the hygienic condition of the female wards. A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Chief (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Omar unhappy over film showcasing J&K locations as Manali

SRINAGAR, June 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed displeasure over the portrayal of locales of Kashmir as Manali in the recently released Bollywood film 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani'. "It's irritating when we roll out the red carpet & facilitate the shoot only to have people believe its Manali. Artistic Licence #YJHD," Omar wrote on the micro-blogging site Twitter. "Those of you planning to visit Manali because of what you saw in #YJHD you should know except for the Temple & Spa resort it's all Gulmarg," the Chief Minister wrote. (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

UPA meets on Monday on Food Bill

NEW DELHI, June 1: UPA will decide its strategy on Monday on the ambitious food security bill amid talk of a special session of Parliament. It was made known after Congress top brass including Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and party Chief Sonia Gandhi in an over three-hour-long meeting here discussed the options of calling a special session or taking the ordinance route in the wake of opposition's "uncooperative" attitude. Other matters like the issue of Government formation in Jharkhand are also expected to come up at the meeting of the UPA Coordination Committee, the first after the just concluded ninth anniversary of the alliance. Recently the UPA ally NCP had said that such an immediate interaction was the need of the hour. The meeting will provide an opportunity to the Congress top

Army to deploy 2 bns for Amarnath yatra Experts on job for all weather fence: Lt Gen Hooda

JAMMU, June 1: The Army said today that an all weather fencing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir could be a possibility soon as the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) experts was on the job. It added that the Army would be positioning at least two battalions for security of Amarnath yatris along the National Highways and other vantage points especially on the heights. Notwithstanding series of infiltration attempts on the LoC in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the Army maintained that it hadn't allowed any such bid to succeed despite all odds. Speaking exclusively to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 16 Corps Lt Gen DS Hooda said there is a proposal before the MHA for an all weather fence on the LoC to completely plug the infiltration routes, which were used by the militants to sneak-in when the fence was damaged due to heavy snowfall. He said the MHA had set up a team of experts including engineers to examine feasibility of all weather fencing, which should withstand 20 feet to 40 feet snowfall, which was witnessed during snowfall in the winter in some parts of the State. In response to a question, the Nagrota Corps Commander was of the view that the all weather



Lt Gen Hooda in military uniform.

New defence procurement policy introduced

NEW DELHI, June 1: Against the backdrop of scams such as the VVIP chopper deal, a new defence procurement policy came into force today which aims at enhancing transparency and probity in military purchases and gives first right of refusal to Indian vendors to promote indigenous industry. "The Defence Procurement Procedure 2013 which takes effect from today, aims to balance the competing requirements of expediting capital procurement, developing a robust indigenous defence sector and conforming to the highest standards of transparency, probity and public accountability," Defence Ministry said in a release. While laying a strong emphasis on promoting indigenisation, (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Pak national held in Arnia

JAMMU, June 1: The Border Security Force (BSF) today nabbed a Pakistani national from forward area of Chenaj along the International Border in Arnia sector. He has been identified as Aram Khan, 24, son of Jameel Ahmad, a resident of Sialkot, Pakistan. Reports said the BSF jawans of 193 battalion observed movement of the Pakistani national near the border fencing at forward Chenaj Post in Chananana area of Arnia this morning and nabbed him. Pakistani currency worth Rs 65 was recovered from him, sources said, adding that no incriminating material was found in his possession. The Pakistani appeared to have crossed into this side inadvertently but was being quizzed by the security forces. (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Karan's concern over Dal lake

SRINAGAR, June 1: Former Sadr-i-Riyasat and Rajya Sabha member, Dr Karan Singh who is camping in Srinagar today appealed to the State Government to preserve world famous Dal lake and dismantle all the encroachments found in and around this lake. During an interaction with the representatives of various social organizations in Srinagar, Dr Singh expressed deep concern about the present condition of Dal lake. He said that State Government should utilize all the funds provided by the Central Government in an

Shukla resigns as IPL chief, endgame for Srinivasan

NEW DELHI, June 1: IPL Chairman Rajeev Shukla resigned from the post ahead of the BCCI's Working Committee meeting tomorrow which may see the exit of President N Srinivasan in the wake of scandals surrounding the IPL matches. The resignation of Shukla, who is also a Union Minister, comes as a severe setback to the incumbent President who has already been isolated by his team of officials, two of whom -- Secretary Sanjay Jagdale and Treasurer Ajay Shirke -- have already quit. Besides the attack on Srinivasan and the demand for his resignation, questions were also raised over Shukla continuing in the post as IPL Chairman. "I have decided to quit as IPL chairman. It is a decision which I was pondering over for some time. I think it is time to step down," Shukla told reporters. Shukla said he took the decision in view of the recent controversies and in the interest of cricket. He also took into account the resignations of BCCI secretary Sanjay Jagdale and treasurer Ajay Shirke before taking the decision to step down. "Sanjay Jagdale and Ajay Shirke resigned in the best interest of Indian cricket. I thought this is the right time," he said. Shukla's resignation just a day ahead of the emergency working committee meeting in Chennai is bound to put more pressure on Srinivasan to quit the president's post. N Srinivasan's exit as BCCI chief appeared imminent with senior Board members virtually forcing him to convene the Working Committee meeting in Chennai tomorrow in which he is likely to step down. Backroom negotiations were on to find an honourable exit for the 68-year-old cricket administrator who is said to be setting some conditions before he resigns after his isolation in the wake of arrest of his son-in-law and CSK Team Principal Gurusath Maiyappan over betting charges. The name of former BCCI President Shashank Manohar, a non-controversial figure whom Srinivasan had succeeded two years ago, is doing the rounds to fill the gap as interim President. The possibility of regular elections in September cannot be ruled out when the term of Srinivasan would have ended. Now that the endgame is near for him, Srinivasan is said to be asking for acceptance of three demands, including his reinstatement if he comes out clean after the probe in Gurusath's case, that he (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

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Environmental damages due to Katra-Qazigund rly line come to fore DC takes serious note, directs Konkan Railways CE to compensate losses

*** G&M Deptt to conduct comprehensive study**
Mohinder Verma
JAMMU, June 1: Taking serious note of widespread damages to the natural resources/environment due to ongoing work on the Katra-Qazigund railway line, which came to fore in the recent report of the geologists, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today directed the Chief Engineer of the Konkan Railways to compensate the damages and submit within two days the Environment Management and Much Disposal Plans, which were mandatory as per the environmental laws and the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Deputy Commissioner has also asked the Geology and Mining Department to conduct comprehensive study of damages across the district due to the railway line and submit report within 15 days. Official sources told EXCELSIOR that after going through the complaints from various areas about scarcity of water due to drying up of water supply schemes in Reasi, EXCELSIOR. "The process of construction of tunnel under consideration seems to have intercepted the localized ground water bodies located along the alignment which has introduced the reversal of surface and sub-surface flow into the tunnel and modified the sustainability of discharge of springs located at an altitude higher than the altitude of the alignment of structure under consideration", the report said. Taking serious cognizance of the findings of the geologists, the Deputy Commissioner today wrote to the Director, Geology and Mining for a comprehensive survey along the entire tract and report about the collateral damages to the ecology and environment especially depletion of water resources, sources said, adding the team, which will carry out study, will have members from Public Health Engineering, Public Works and Revenue Departments besides PMGSY and Konkan Railways. "The team will also study other complaints related to damage to agricultural land, forest land and irrigation channels by

Pak Hindus on Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage

KATRA, June 1: A group of 181 Hindu pilgrims from Pakistan arrived today at Katra base camp for performing darshan of Mata Vaishno Devi at the holy cave shrine. The group of pilgrims comprises 136 male, 37 female and eight children. They reached Katra this morning around 8 a.m. and proceeded towards the Bhawan at 4 p.m. for performing the Darshan. Dr Mansa Ram is leading the pilgrims, majority of whom are visiting India for the first time and hailed from Sind province. Last month when relations between both the nations were strained in the backdrop of brutal death of Sarabjeet Singh in (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Pak welcomes PM's response

NEW DELHI, June 1: Welcoming the positive response to Nawaz Sharif's "initiatives" by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Pakistan today said both sides will have to work peacefully to resolve all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, and it is time to shed the old way of thinking and using of stereotypes. It also said good neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and India, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit, are in the interest of the people of the two countries and of the region as a whole. "It is indeed heartening that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

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WEATHER
JAMMU
Mainly clear sky.
TEMPERATURE
Max: 38.2 Degree C
Min: 27.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 43.0 per cent
Lowest: 35.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 07.54 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 05.25 a.m.
KASHMIR
Mainly clear sky.
TEMPERATURE
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Min: 12.5 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
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Lowest: 24.0 per cent

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