

From page 1

3 of Jammu family missing in Kedarnath

with the family till a couple of days back but then after no contact could be established with them, Meenakshi, Sham Lal's daughter, said.

"Last time we spoke to them was on June 15, after they had paid obeisance at the Kedarnath Shrine and were in a hotel," she said.

She further said they also approached the tour and travel company, which had organised the tour but were helpless.

"Their cell phones are responding switched off," she said adding, some of the family members from Jammu yesterday left for Rishikesh to trace the missing relatives.

"I along with my sister Monika have also appealed to

the Jammu and Kashmir Government to help us in locating our 'missing' family members," she added.

She said they performed darshan at Kedarnath on June 15 and "we had last contact with them on the same day". They had gone on "Char Dham Yatra" through Shiv Shanker Dham Trust but it too has no information about their whereabouts, she added.

Meenakshi said that they are in constant touch with the Trust management but it is also clueless. They had to reach Gouri Kund on Sunday June 16 but it has not been ascertained whether they had reached Gouri Kund on that day or not, she added.

Cabinet likely to approve Rs 91.56 cr package for Jammu migrants

300 per month per cattle for purchase of fodder.

The number of such families is 1054, which include 3 from Poonch, 172 from Rajouri, 886 from Reasi, 168 from Doda/Kishtwar and 225 from Ramban. An amount of Rs 1212 lakh has been expended on account of relief at the present scale on these migrants since 2007-08.

"The package would not only help Jammu migrants to return to their native places but also stop fresh migration as people on flimsy grounds are still approaching various authorities for grant of registrations in order to avail the undue benefits", sources said.

Of Rs 91.56 crore package, Rs 50.06 crore has been proposed under repair and reconstruction of houses component,

Rs 8 crore for re-cultivation of agricultural lands and orchards, Rs 16 crore for providing employment to 300 youths for three years at the rate of Rs 15000 per employee per month, Rs 9 crore for financial assistance for 300 income generating units and Rs 8.50 crore for continuation of relief for three years, sources said.

In response to a question whether this package would also meet the fate of package for the Kashmiri migrants, sources said, "though much progress has not been made so far but after joining of more than 1446 employees appointed under Prime Minister's package in the Valley, it is expected that in near future there will be much progress with regard to their returning to Kashmir valley".

CB produces challan against 14 persons in drugs scam

the case in view, the investigation of the case was directly supervised by Inspector General of Police, State Crime Branch. During the investigation, it has been established that accused persons Ashok Kumar Raina, Amardeep Raina and Akhil Kumar Gadoo dishonestly and fraudulently prepared fake and fictitious documents including partnership deeds/rent deeds of bogus firms.

After getting registered with GMC, Jammu, as a supplier firm, the accused managed to procure large quantities of various pharmaceuticals, which were then distributed to the Health Department which was later found spurious, the Crime Branch said in the charge-sheet.

After hearing CPO Kulbhushan Sharma appearing for the Crime Branch and Advocate Rohit Sharma for Dr A K Sharma and Dr Subash Chander Khajuria, the Special Judge Anticorruption Court granted them interim bail till next date of hearing subject to the furnishing of personal and surety bonds to the tune of Rs 20,000 each on the analogy that Chairperson of the Purchase Committee Dr Madhu Khullar has already been granted interim bail.

The Court remanded Akhil Gadoo, Ashok Kumar Raina and Amardeep Raina to judicial custody and sent them to District Jail Jammu till next date of hearing.

Transfers of KAS officers

transferred and posted as Project Officer Self Employment Samba vice Kalyan Singh, who shall also report to GAD for further posting.

Dil Mir, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, is posted as General Manager DIC Doda vice Sham Lal.

Parveen Kumar, awaiting orders of posting in GAD, is posted as Project Officer, Self Employment Poonch vice Ashok Kumar, who shall report to GAD for further posting.

Noor Alam, awaiting orders of posting in the GAD, is posted

ed as Project Officer Watershed Jammu vice Suram Chand Sharma.

Sushil Kumar Atri and Ahmad Hussain, awaiting orders of posting in the GAD, have been posted as General Manager JKTDC Jammu and Deputy Secretary with Chairman, Committee for Fixation of Fee Structure, J&K, respectively.

Mohd Altaf Wani, who was also awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, is posted as Project Officer Watershed, Baramulla against an available vacancy.

Mobile connectivity for yatris

the State of J&K, the Telecom Department has given permission to private operators, in addition to BSNL, to provide the interested yatri pre-paid sim cards with a validity of four days.

This arrangement has been materialized after the Chairman of the Board, and Governor N.N. Vohra had taken up the matter with the Union Communication Ministry.

Providing details, Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board (SASB) said that such sim cards will be made available

Pak woman dies in Rajouri

his husband had come to the house of Mohammad Latif Mughal son of Abdul Hussain, a resident of Gambhir Mughal in Manjokote area of Rajouri district on May 20 vide Permit No. 46891.

Their permit had expired on June 18 but they had applied for extension.

Last night, the woman felt

uneasiness and was shifted to District Hospital, Rajouri from where she was referred to Government Medical College, Jammu, where she died due to renal failure.

Her body has been shifted to Rajouri after the post-mortem and would be sent to PoK via Chakan-Da-Bagh at 7 am tomorrow, Mr Latifi said.

First batch of Amarnath yatra to leave Jammu on June 27

permissions for free lingers enroute in their area, he added.

Meanwhile, according to sources, four companies of CRPF along with J&K Police security personnel have been deployed at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas from June 15 to sanitize the area and ensure that no unscrupulous elements made entry in the Yatri Niwas. The CRPF personnel have started their activities of sanitizing the area with the assistance of dog squads and bomb squads, sources added.

The four companies of CRPF which have been deployed at Bhagwati Nagar included G Company, B Company, C Company and D Company and they have started the installation of tents in the Yatri Niwas area also.

In addition to it, the installation of tents and bunkers by security personnel, the private agencies have also started construction of sheds for providing free services of lingers etc to the yatris at base camp which will be ready by June 25. Over 100 tents and sheds are likely to be installed at Yatri Niwas, sources added.

The sources said the arrangements are in place at base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also and the widening of track on both sides is going on with full speed by R&B. The raiting work on downside of track from Baltal is going on while widening of track from Pahalgam side is also on and it will be completed before June 28 the first day of darshan, sources added.

Sources said that apart from

tented accommodation at base camp of Baltal 150 prefabricated huts are in place. Besides, this the outsource huts have also been installed enroute to holy cave and tented accommodations will be also provided to pilgrims enroute, sources added.

Sources said 3300 pre fabricated toilets have been erected and proper arrangements of sanitation have been made on both sides of the track especially at base camps of Baltal and Nunwan with construction of two sewerage Treatment plants one each at Baltal and Nunwan.

Sources said that at Baltal the sewerage treatment plant will cater to the needs of 10,000 yatris per day while at Nunwan it will cater to the needs of 8000 people per day.

All evacuated from Kedarnath town

es that left several hundreds of homes, rest houses and buildings in ruins and thousands of people missing.

The official death toll still stood at 150 but Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna said the casualties could run into several hundreds which will be known only when areas become accessible and water recedes.

The State Government's disaster mitigation and management centre had in the morning said that the casualties could run into thousands with about 90 dhamshalas (resthouses for pilgrims) swept away in the flash floods.

Stepping up relief and rescue operations, the Defence Ministry has deployed more than 45 Army and IAF choppers along with more than 10,000 troops in the state.

IAF has deployed 20 Mi-17s and 16 Advanced Light Helicopters in the State where they have evacuated over 1,500 people. Army has also deployed over 8,000 of its troops along with over 3,000 personnel of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Defence Ministry officials said in Delhi.

In the wake of poor connectivity and communication, relatives of several pilgrims who came from outside the State were struggling to find the whereabouts of their dear ones.

The upper reaches of the State lay mute witness to the death and devastation caused

Mirwaiz for Indo-Pak summit

ward and address the Kashmir (problem)," Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq said addressing a seminar at Amalgam headquarters here.

A proposed summit in Srinagar and Muzaffarabad (capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) could be a big leap forward, he said.

Apparently referring to the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to inaugurate the Qazigund-Banihal section of Kashmir rail project next week, Mirwaiz said "Kashmir is a political problem which cannot be solved by economic packages or rail services."

"Kashmir issue needs political will and political approach for resolution. You need a road map and we feel it lies with the Kashmiris," he said.

Mirwaiz said that there was no threat to the pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra this year and blamed security agencies for creating an atmosphere of a perceived threat.

4 hurt at NC rally clashes

opposite faction. National Conference had called a convention at Town Hall Kulgam in which Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo

"Nothing will happen to the yatris. We have always welcomed yatri and tourists here. It is a conspiracy hatched by security agencies to create an atmosphere of fear to hold their control on Kashmir," Mirwaiz said.

Mirwaiz was reacting to the statements of Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and Army who have said that annual Amarnath Yatra is facing threats from militants.

Recalling that in 2008 when Kashmiri was on boil, he said no yatri was touched and people opened langars for them when they were themselves suffering themselves.

"They extended their full support and co-operation for making their pilgrimage peaceful and successful," he said.

Meanwhile, responding to the statements of Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and Northern Army Command Chief Lt General K T Parneik that the Amarnath Yatra faces militant threat, Chairman Syed

complete death toll in the disaster unless bodies are recovered. There could be a lot of people who could have been washed away but in such situations eyewitness accounts could sometimes be exaggerated, Chadha said.

22 helicopters have been deployed to rescue and evacuate over 22,000 stranded people to safer locations through hundreds of sorties. Food, medicines and other essentials were also carried to the needy by the defence forces.

The ITBP DG, who is also in-charge of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), said 17 bodies were recovered by the troops of the specialised force from the Kedarnath area. The State Government has been informed.

Gaurikund, the base camp for those going to Kedarnath temple, also witnessed rescue of 250 people today by small helicopters.

Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna termed the calamity as unprecedented adding that the casualties caused by the tragedy would run into several hundreds.

"The tragedy is huge and damage tremendous with vast tracts of land still submerged under tonnes of debris. The casualties must run into several hundreds," Bahuguna told reporters at the secretariat here. (PTI)

Retd Army Naik arrested with Govt cement

Ali Shah Geelani while addressing a press conference in Srinagar ruled out that there is any kind of threat to yatri and said the rumour is aimed at maligning their image.

Since last 150 years, the Amarnath Yatra is being conducted and during all this period the people of Jammu and Kashmir have treated yatri with the unique hospitality. "This is a unique example of hospitality and brotherhood from all over the world," Geelani said, adding that the threat to yatri from Kashmiris can't be even imagined.

Geelani said there are no such threats from any section of militants and it is the handiwork of forces and a deliberate attempt to create confusion and misconceptions. "Kashmiris are famous for their humble nature. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are not communal and have nothing to do with sectarian politics. This is a conspiracy to defame us at international level," he said.

Police sources said that a police party from Satwari police station laid a naka and intercepted a Mahindra vehicle bearing registration number JK02M-2181. The driver sped up the vehicle and tried to flee, but was chased and arrested.

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PM, Sonia to address Ministers; 2 public meets in Kishtwar, Banihal

from Kishtwar. Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi would leave for Srinagar from Kishtwar where they would have lunch at Nehru Guest House. They would proceed to SKICC in the afternoon, where they would meet delegations and release a stamp on famous Kashmiri poet Gulam Ahmad Mehjoor coinciding with his 125th birthday.

They would meet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and address the Council of Ministers headed by him at the SKICC. Sources said the Chief Minister would project demands of the State before the Prime Minister and the UPA chairperson during the meeting.

Sources said Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi would review pace of development works including Centrally Sponsored projects and Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan (PMRP).

The Prime Minister would have a detailed review of security and political scenario of the State in his meeting with the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.

The Chief Minister would host a dinner in the honour of the Prime Minister and the UPA chairperson at SKICC on June 25, which would also be attended by selected dignitaries from political and bureaucratic circles.

Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi would have a night halt at Raj Bhawan. They would discuss the situation of the State with the Governor in detail.

Sources said on January 26 morning, Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi would fly to Banihal in Ramban district of Jammu region, where they would inaugurate Banihal-Qazigund railway line and address a public meeting before flying back to Udhampur on way to New Delhi.

Sources said Mughal road

inauguration has been deleted from the schedule of Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi as some work was still left on the project.

The Qazigund-Banihal railway line has been completed by the Railways including an 11 kilometers Pir Panchal railway tunnel, which is longest in India and connects village Cheral in Banihal tehsil of Jammu and Qazigund in Kashmir.

Presently, the train service is operating between Baramulla to Qazigund in Kashmir and Jammu to Udhampur in Jammu. The Government of India has set the deadline of 2018 for completion of Jammu-Baramulla railway line to link the Kashmir Valley by train with rest of the India. While the train would reach Katra anytime this year, the DMU train from Qazigund to Banihal would start chugging after inauguration of the railway line by the Prime Minister on June 25 during his one day visit to the Kashmir Valley.

Sources said Baramulla-Banihal railway line would considerably reduce the travel distance and would help the people travel by train up to Banihal from Kashmir and then take bus on way to Jammu.

Banihal-Qazigund railway line comprised India's longest 11.2 kilometers tunnel running through Pir Panchal ranges.

It has been built at the cost of Rs 1300 crores and would reduce distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 17 kilometers. Banihal-Qazigund railway line was initially due to complete in 2009 and has been delayed by about three and a half years.

The 850 mw Ratle Hydro Electric Power Project, whose foundation stone would be laid by Dr Singh and Mrs Gandhi is first project awarded through a tariff based competitive bid-

ding process and first private sector investment in power sector in the State.

A PTI report said the 240 mw Uri-II power project being built by the State-run National Hydel Power Corporation (NHPC), which was to have been operationalised after being inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is believed to have hit a last minute snag in its functioning during trial runs.

The NHPC, during the trial runs, found a lot of silt near head as well as at the rear tunnel during the mandatory pre-testing on June 18 ahead of a VVIP visit, according to sources today. The project, second on river Jhelum in Uri town, is located downstream of 480-MW Uri-I.

Uri-II would have helped NHPC to increase its hydropower generation capacity to 1,920 MW in J and K from five projects in the state. The other four projects are 690-MW Salal, 480-MW Uri-I, 390-MW Dulhasti and 120-MW Sewa-II.

NHPC officials when contacted about the reported snag refused to comment.

Uri-II is a run-of-the-river scheme on Jhelum. The project cost is Rs 575 crores and involved a 38m high concrete gravity dam with four bays of low level spillway, a head regulator with two bays each 12.5m wide on the left bank, one desilting basin 225m in length, a 4233m long headrace tunnel, a 78m deep surge shaft, an underground power station, a 3614m long tailrace tunnel and a diversion tunnel through the right abutment of the dam.

The 50m high concrete gravity dam across the river Jhelum will have a top width of 8 meters. The 60m overflow section which is made of four low level spillways with a 9m clear waterway will cater to design flood of 4850 m3/sec.

Employees likely to call off strike today as JU concedes regularization demand

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: The 43-day long strike by the Class-IV employees in Jammu University is likely to be called off tomorrow as the JU has agreed to concede their all demands, particularly the regularization of daily rated workers who have completed seven years in service.

After three rounds of marathon talks between the Jammu University Negotiating Committee and representatives of Non-Gazetted Employees Union (NGEU), an agreement was reached out on regularization of the Casual Labourers, sources informed the Excelsior.

The University agreed to regularize the Casual Labourers on one third of total class IV posts, which means approximately 70 daily rated workers will get adjusted in one go, sources explained adding that the remaining will also be reg-

ularized soon on the same pattern.

Even as the formula for regularization on one third posts was initially rejected by the NGEU representatives who were under the impression that only a handful of the Casual Labourers would be benefitted, the confusion was soon cleared. The University authorities explained that under the offer, approximately 70 workers will be adjusted in one go.

The JU authorities also agreed to consider the agitating employees' other demands, maximum of which have already been conceded. These demands include grade revision, re-designation as Dafatris and lowering eligibility criteria for promotion benefits, etc.

According to the sources, the University may issue a formal order on regularization tomorrow following which the employees are understood to call off their strike.

Retd Army Naik arrested with Govt cement

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Police today arrested a retired Army Naik along with 50 bags of Government cement, which he was smuggling to his cement store by tempering the challan, issued by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Marh.

Police sources said that a police party from Satwari police station laid a naka and intercepted a Mahindra vehicle bearing registration number JK02M-2181. The driver sped up the vehicle and tried to flee, but was chased and arrested.

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College student among 2 youth drown

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 20: A College student among two youth were drowned in separate incidents in Rajouri district today. Reports said that one Zulfikar Ali (18), son of Mohd Aslam of Fatehpur, Gurian was washed away while crossing a nullah near his residence. He was student of Part I, three year degree course.

In another incident, one Ghulam Mustafa (26), son of Mohd Hussain of Dhamona Loharan in Rajouri was drowned while taking bath in a nullah at Bela Colony.

Meanwhile, Thanamandi Police rescued seven bovine animals, which were being smuggler to Kashmir. Police also arrested two bovine smugglers and seized two vehicles, in which the bovines were being transported.

The arrested smugglers have been identified as Khurshid Ahmed of Hirpur Shopian and Mohd Iqbal of Behroze Thanamandi. The seized vehicles (Tata Mobile) were bearing registration number JK03D-939 and JK11-6489.

The smuggling bid was foiled by SDPO Thanamandi Nazibul Rehman.

Five judges sworn in to Punjab and Haryana High Court

CHANDIGARH, June 20: Five new judges were administered oath as justices of Punjab and Haryana High Court here today.

Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul administered the oath of office to Justice Anita Chaudhary, Justice Mahavir Singh Chauthan, Justice Fateh Deep Singh, Justice Jaspal Singh and Justice Surinder Gupta as additional judges of the court. (PTI)

Man missing

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: 30-year-old Som Raj, son of Sansar Chand of S a n d w a n , G h o M a n h a s a, has been reportedly missing since June 11 from his home.

He is having wheatish complexion with 6 feet height. He was wearing white T-shirt and cream colour pant, when last seen.

Any body having any clue about the missing man may contact on mobile numbers 94197