

Militants strike in Srinagar a day before PM's visit

8 Army men killed, 11 injured; Srinagar on high alert

Fayaz Bukhari

* PM, CM condemn terror attack

SRINAGAR, June 24: In one of the major militant strikes in Srinagar, ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's two day visit to the State beginning tomorrow, eight Army personnel were killed and 11 others injured when militants attacked an Army vehicle on Srinagar Bypass in Hyderpora this afternoon.

The fleeing militants also opened fire and hurled a grenade on police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) check point near Barzulla bridge when they tried to stop them during a routine security check. A police officer and a CRPF jawan were injured in Barzulla shoot out.

Srinagar based Defence spokesman, Naresh Vij told Excelsior that eight Army personnel were killed and 11 others injured in the militant attack.

Sources said that the Army vehicle bearing registration Number 07D-174441A that was ambushed was on its way to Beerwah in Central Kashmir district of Budgam from Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar. "It was carrying the army men of 35 Rashtriya Rifles of counter insurgency Victor Force, posted

in Beerwah, Budgam", sources added. Sources said that two militants appeared on the highway near Classic Hospital, only 200

driver died on the spot bringing the vehicle to halt. Militants immediately shifted to rear of the vehicle and fired at the Army men inside the

cycle from two students who were coming out of a tuition centre in Baghat area on Airport road. The two students immediately reported to the police about

brief exchange of fire took place in which one CRPF Jawan and one police personnel was injured", the spokesman added. "One CRPF personnel has been injured in the militant firing near out Rambagh camp," Inspector General of CRPF Y S Yadav said. He was identified as Sub-Inspector Lala Ram.

The police spokesman said that militants again managed to flee from the spot leaving behind the motorcycle. "The motorcycle has been seized. The area has been cordoned off and the search for the militants who carried out the attack is going on", the spokesman added.

The spokesman while giving details of the attack said: "At around 1630 hours, Army vehicles were plying on Bypass, Srinagar. Near Classic Hospital, two terrorists ambushed the vehicles and resorted to firing. They also hurled grenade inside a vehicle. In the incident, few casualties have been reported where as few Army Jawans were also injured. All the injured have been shifted to the Hospital", the spokesman said.

Hizbul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the attack. Identifying himself as Baliguddin, spokesperson of the



An Army vehicle damaged in militants' ambush at Hyderpora in Srinagar on Monday.

—Excelsior/Amin War

meters away from Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad's residence and fired on the Army vehicle from the front. "Both the driver and co-

vehicle and also hurled a grenade inside it leading to casualties", sources said.

Sources said that the militants later fled in a vehicle from the spot and snatched a motor

snatching of their motor cycle.

A police spokesman said that militants when retaliated fled from the spot on a motorcycle towards Barzalla. "They were intercepted at Barzalla and a



A nomad walks with his herd of goats and sheep on mountains of Pir Panjal range at Mughal road. —Excelsior/Rakesh

India won't get access to Headley

NEW DELHI, June 24:

India will not get fresh access to Mumbai terror attack mastermind David Headley, who is currently in American jail, for questioning, the US indicated today.

This was conveyed to India during the Indo-US strategic dialogue held here today for which Secretary of State John Kerry is here.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Govt to form judges' panel to oversee CBI investigations

NEW DELHI, June 24:

In an attempt to insulate CBI's probe from external influence, Government may form a panel of retired judges to oversee its investigations, according to the conclusions reached by the Group of Ministers which would submit its report to the Cabinet on June 27.

The GoM which finalised its recommendations on the methods to insulate the agency from external influence today suggested to form an accountability committee of retired judges which would oversee the probes carried out by CBI, official sources said.

They said the recommendation along with other suggestions of

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CM salutes Army for U'khand mission

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah may have differences with the Army over its stand on AFSPA, but today said he admired the forces for rescuing thousands of people from flood-ravaged Uttarakhand.

"Regardless of my disagreements with the Army about AFSPA etc, I have to admire and salute the amazing job being done by them (Army, Air Force, ITBP)," Omar wrote on micro-blogging site Twitter.

He said everyone must appreciate the massive rescue operations launched by these agencies in Uttarakhand.

"The kind of operation they have mounted to rescue people in

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

SVO books CEO DDA, 2 others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 24: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dohdpathri Development Authority (DDA) was among three were booked by State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) for misappropriation of funds.

An official spokesman said that, Abdul Rashid Shah, the then Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dohdpathri Development Authority, Mohammad Dilawar Malik, then Range Officer and incharge Dohdpathri and Ghulam Rasool Lone, Forest Officer, Block Raithan and Supervisory Officer Dohdpathri were booked by the State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) for misappropriation of amount to the tune of Rs 10 lakh.

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Salman to face fresh trial

MUMBAI, June 24:

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan will face a fresh trial in the 2002 hit-and-run case after a sessions court today dismissed his petition challenging a metropolitan court order invoking the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The actor, who had earlier been tried for a lesser offence of causing death by negligence (Section 304 A of IPC), which provides for a maximum punishment of two years in jail, will now stand trial under a harsher law pertaining to culpable homicide that could attract imprisonment upto 10 years.

Pronouncing the verdict, sessions judge U B Hejib ruled that

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Only 1000 evacuated as bad weather hits rescue operations

GAUCHAR (UTTARAKHAND), June 24:

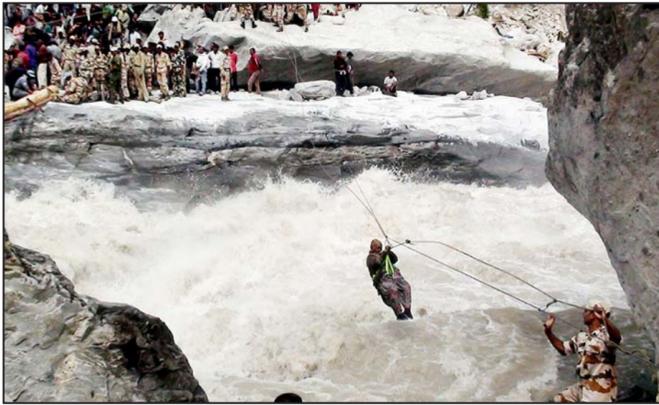
Rescue operations by air and road in flood-ravaged Uttarakhand were hampered by fresh rains today with around 1,000 of the remaining

could make limited sorties.

However, the rain-marred rescue efforts saw a total of a little around 1,000 pilgrims being evacuated from different areas including the Himalayan shrine in Chamoli district and the Gangotri valley, Chief Secretary

from Badrinath, 11 from Pandukeshwar and 18 from Lambagar in Chamoli district.

Reports from Chamoli and Pauni districts said it was raining in the higher reaches hampering chopper operations. The state capital Dehradun was also



ITBP personnel rescuing victims through a rope bridge fixed on Alaknanda river at Lambagar en route to Badrinath on Monday. (UNI)

10,000 stranded people being evacuated and are likely to be stalled for three days with heavy rains being forecast.

As fresh rains, landslides and cloudburst posed a challenge to multi-agency operations, only 164 out of a total of 5,000 pilgrims stuck in the high-altitude temple town of Badrinath could be evacuated to Joshimath in the few small six-seat aircraft that

Subhash Kumar told reporters in Dehradun.

Apart from 164 evacuated from Badrinath, 830 were evacuated from Harshil, Maneri and Bhatwari in Uttarkashi district to Dharasu, he said.

The bad weather grounded most of the big military choppers from bringing people to safety while small helicopters managed to evacuate only 164

drenched with rain.

Fresh landslips in Rudraprayag and on Badrinath highway also choked the route.

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Exercise not made time-bound despite missing deadlines

J&K non-serious towards climate change, fails to submit action plan

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 24: Notwithstanding the fact that climate change issue is being seriously pondered upon worldwide because of its dangerous ramifications for the human beings, Jammu and Kashmir Government has remained most insensitive towards this phenomenon and failed to prepare State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) despite missing several deadlines fixed by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that since climate change has become a burning issue across the world, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests prepared National Action Plan in 2008 whereby a number of measures were outlined to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Accordingly, all the States across the country were directed to develop State Action Plan on Climate Change to define as to how they intend to undertake activities and programmes aimed at climate change mitigation.

The Union Ministry of

Environment and Forests had also directed that the State Action Plans should be in line with the objectives of the National Action Plan and ensure its implementation at the State level.

These directions were imperative keeping in view the impacts of climate change, which range from affecting agriculture, further endangering food security and increase intensity of natural disasters. But like several other States of the country Jammu and Kashmir too has remained 'insensitive' towards this very sensitive issue, sources said.

Despite lapse of several years and missing numerous deadlines the State Government has failed to come up with the final copy of the Action Plan so that the same could be submitted to the Union Ministry, they regretted. "Initially, the preparation of draft action plan took time and then the copies of draft remained lying with the stakeholders (different departments) for submission of comments and department-wise action plans", sources added.

When the uniform State-

level Action Plan was placed before the Executive Committee of Jammu and Kashmir State Council on Climate Change headed by Chief Secretary in the month of February this year, it was suggested that some improvements must be carried out in the draft. Accordingly, more experts were engaged and at present the draft Action Plan was being revised, sources said.

On completion of this exercise, the revised draft Action Plan would again be placed before the Executive Committee headed by Chief Secretary and after getting its nod the same would be placed before the Governing Council headed by Chief Minister for final approval.

"Keeping in view the process through which the revised draft will pass through no timeframe can be specified for the preparation of final Action Plan and its submission to Government of India", sources added.

"The delay in preparation of Action Plan and its submission to the MoEF is notwithstanding the fact that Jammu and Kashmir has already been categorized as sensitive State

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WEATHER

JAMMU

Possibility of light rain/thundershowers.

TEMPERATURE

Max: 38.4 Degree C
Min: 29.3 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Highest: 69.0 per cent
Lowest: 50.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 07.43 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday: 05.27 a.m.

KASHMIR

Partially cloudy sky.

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.8 Degree C
Min: 20.8 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

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