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5 **Cong leader calls for launching war against corruption** The Oracles of Ladakh-I 9 **Uproar in LS over diversion of SC/ST funds for CWG** 10

Vol. 67 No. 215 Regd No: JK/040/2005 JAMMU/SRINAGAR Wednesday August 4, 2010 Pages 16 Price Rs. 2/- Price for Ladakh & Delhi Rs 3/-

Kashmir tension Around 150 railway employees return to Jammu
KT NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Aug 3: Nearly 150 employees of the railway department have 'migrated' to this winter capital of the state in the wake of the tense situation prevailing in Kashmir.

2000 more central forces for J&K
KT NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: The Centre has decided to send nearly 2000 Central paramilitary force personnel to Kashmir Valley while another 3,200, currently based in the state, will be redeployed in trouble-torn areas. The additional forces are being sent following a request from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to help tackle the situation.

Minor reshuffle in administration
KT NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, Aug 3: The State Cabinet which met here today under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah effected following transfers in the civil administration. Jeet Lal Gupta, Secretary, ARI and Trainings has been posted as Secretary.

Ban denies Kashmir remark
KT NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: As India sought clarifications into the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's statement on the situation in Kashmir, his spokesperson Farhan Haq said the comments were made in response to a question from journalists. An annoyed Ministry of External Affairs had asked the UN to clarify, and the UN in turn denied any such remarks.

Weather Today

JAMMU WEATHER
TEMPERATURE: Max.: 34.8°C Min.: 27.0°C
HUMIDITY: Max.: 85% Min.: 53%
Sunset on 04-08-2010 : 19:27 hrs.
Sunrise on 05-08-2010 : 05:48 hrs.
FORECAST: Cloudy, Rain at few places in Jammu region.

SRINAGAR WEATHER
TEMPERATURE: Max.: 28.0°C Min.: 20.8°C
HUMIDITY: Max.: 74% Min.: 68%
Sunset on 04-08-2010 : 19:29 hrs.
Sunrise on 05-08-2010 : 05:45 hrs.
FORECAST: Cloudy, Rain at some places in valley, in glaciers partly cloudy to cloudy.

Shoot at sight orders, yet thousands defy curfew

5 killed in fresh firing, 150 injured in clashes in Kashmir



Security Forces firing at funeral procession of a youth, who was killed by Police personnel at Barthana in Srinagar on Tuesday.



KILL ME IF YOU CAN: A youth protesting in front of Security Forces after the killing of a youth at Barthana in Srinagar.

SHABIR IBN YUSUF/ SHABIR-UL-HAQ
SRINAGAR/ ANANTNAG, Aug 3: Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital became the focal point for yet another day of massive disturbances resulting in the death of three youth in the police firing and widespread clashes between protestors and CRPF and police. Two deaths were also reported in police and CRPF firing in rest of valley and more than 150 were injured. Although Syed Ali Geelani was re-arrested at SKIMS, his Eidgah

Kreeri residents to go on hunger strike
KT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Residents of Kreei-Baramulla have decided to go on a 12 hour long hunger strike tomorrow in protest against the missing in custody of a local youth Syed Farak Bukhari. In a letter to deputy commissioner Baramulla, the residents have alleged that Farak, who was travelling through the Choor

Chalo call evoked huge response with large number of demonstrators taken out processions at a number of places in city and around to head for Eidgah which was sealed by the CRPF and police. Later people in huge numbers, defying curfew restrictions, reached Martyrs Graveyard at Eidgah for the funeral of a youth, killed in police firing. To thwart the Eidgah march there was heavy deployment of forces on all routes as loudspeakers fitted in police gypsies announced shoot at sight orders for curfew viola-

Geelani re-arrested
KT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Having released him only two days back, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chairman Hurriyat Conference (G) was re-arrested today by police at Soura Medical Institute. He was arrested as he was moving out of the institute in connection with his march towards Eidgah. Geelani was kept in the intensive care unit after his arrest. Before his arrest, the

tions. SRINAGAR: CRPF troopers this morning killed Meraj-ud-Din Lone, 19 a fruit seller and injured 30 persons after they opened fire on protest demonstration at Barthana Qamarwari. Hundreds of people in the area took to streets in their area and were holding a peaceful protest demonstration. The protestors were heading towards Eidgah. A heavy contingent of police and CRPF intercepted them. They burst tear smoke shells, and fired indiscriminately on the protestors. The firing

Hurriyat (G) issues fresh calender
KT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Hurriyat Conference (G) has appealed the people to observe general strike till August 7 and do the necessary purchasing on August 8 (Sunday), reports a local news agency Kashmir Media Network. Quoting a spokesman, the news agency said a decision to this effect was taken during the Majlis-e-Shoura meeting

on the protests continued for at least 10 minutes. Four persons received bullet injuries. They were shifted to SMHS where Meraj was declared brought dead by the doctors. Efforts were made by people to take out the body of Meraj to Martyrs Graveyard at Eidgah. But their attempts were foiled by security forces at Qamarwari Chowk and Ibrahim Colony with massive tear gas shelling and direct firing. A team of media persons covering the incident also had a narrow escape and they

14 days police remand Jammu police finally gets custody of Sangram Singh

JAMMU, Aug 3 (JNF): Sessions Court today granted custody of Sangram Singh, kingpin of 'Pradhi gang' allegedly involved in brutal murder of Cement Tycoon Rajinder Bhushan alias Raju Chopra, his wife, daughter, domestic help and driver at Trikuta Nagar in September 2006, to Jammu police for custodial interrogation for 14 days. While allowing application of Jammu police, Sessions court today

Call to end violence, revoke AFSPA
• Police, social activists debate ways forward on Kashmir

KT NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, Aug 3: A round table conference organised by Awami National Conference (ANC) here attended by a cross section of political and social activists and journalists here on Tuesday called for an immediate stop on the killings and enforcement of accountability. A resolution adopted at the end of a two-day conference also asked for immediate revocation of Public Safety Act (PSA) and withdrawal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act

(AFSPA). It also called for reducing level of security forces to pre-1989 period. Demanding release of all political prisoners, the resolution also insisted starting of civil society debates across Jammu and Kashmir and rest of India. It also exhorted India and Pakistan to restart their dialogue process as soon as possible to find a resolution of Kashmir issue. It also asked for removing restrictions on the media. Earlier, initiating the debate, noted journalist Prem Shankar Jha said

no integration was possible without an emotional bond. He said curbs on press freedom were the outset of an authoritarian culture. CPI leader A. B. Bardhan asked for removal of army from streets as soon as possible. Strategist B. G. Verghese called for either amendments or revocation of AFSPA. ANC president Khalida Shah pleaded an immediate solution and an accountability within

AFSPA not to be revoked, Centre tells Omar

KT NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, Aug 3: While censuring him for showing lack of spine in handling turbulent situation in Kashmir presently witnessing spiraling violence, the Centre has told the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in unequivocal terms that Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) would not be revoked in any situation. A delegation of the J&K Congress leaders which met the Prime Minister and Defence Minister today in the union capital has also opposed revoca-

tion of AFSPA. Reliable sources in the Home Ministry maintained that during the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in the union capital on Monday, which was also attended by Omar, the latter was reprimanded for, what it was described as, "soft approach" to tackle the situation in Kashmir which has witnessed over twenty deaths in a fresh spate of violence in the past four days. "He was told that his

Volcano breathes under West Bank's glittering casinos, theatres

IFTIKHAR GILANI
JERUSALAM, Aug 3: Palestinian territories in West Bank under secular Palestine Authority (PA) are bubbling with economic activities. A big casino has come up in the town of Jericho, new theatres are opening across Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramalla, with droves of Palestinians throng-

ing to watch latest Hollywood. But it does not need an expert eye to judge a volcano brewing beneath the deceptive calm, threatening to consume the Muslim world. Neither Palestinians nor Israelis have much faith in the 'direct talks' between the two governments engineered by the United States. As Israelis celebrate

President Barack Obama's predicament, Palestinians blame him for backing out of promises he made before polls. Besides the high-walls built by Israelis to restrict movements of Palestinians, the hate between two communities has grown to the point of no return. To avoid eye contacts with Palestinians, in the old city of

Jerusalem, some Jews even walk to their homes through roofs rather covered alleys full of Arab shops. An influential section within Israeli government and Palestine Authority do recognise a two-state formula based on pre-1967 positions leaving the control of Jerusalem open for negotiations, trust deficit

between the two communities, PA's declining political clout, Israelis attempts of colonization and practicing a form of apartheid adds road blocks towards a peaceful resolution. "There is a total divorce between Jewish and Muslim communities. They don't want to live together. Earlier majority of Jews were not in favour

of a Palestine state. But now all opinion polls suggest an overwhelming majority supports a separate Jewish and Palestine state," says Khalid Abu Tomeh, the only Arab journalist working for The Jerusalem Post, a Jewish right wing newspaper. International director of

Tankers again suspend supplies to Valley

KT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, Aug 3: Alleging that drivers and cleaners of petrol tankers were assaulted by mob in Kashmir valley, Tankers Association in Jammu on Tuesday suspended fuel supplies to valley. No supply of Petrol, diesel and kerosene was dispatched to valley today. "Protestors in Kashmir reportedly assaulted the drivers of the petrol tankers and some of the tankers were also damaged by those pelting stones," Jammu and Kashmir Oil Tankers Association General Secretary said. He said the supplies will remain suspended till

at-least 400 tankers stranded at Jammu-Srinagar national highway and outside Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot, returns. He alleged that the drivers and cleaners were beaten up by protestors in valley and when association talked with Divisional Commissioner Jammu Pawan Kotwal, he said that his responsibility is up to Jawahar Tunnel but assured them that he will take up this matter with the authorities in Kashmir. Singh alleged that protection to their tankers was provided from Lower Munda to Qazigund but on

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Volcano breathes under West Bank's glittering casinos, theatres

BY IFTIKHAR GILANI

JERUSALAM, Aug 3: Palestinian territories in West Bank under secular Palestine Authority (PA) are bubbling with economic activities. A big casino has come up in the town of Jericho, new theatres are opening across Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramalla, with droves of Palestinians thronging to watch latest Hollywood.

But it does not need an expert eye to judge a volcano brewing beneath the deceptive calm, threatening to consume the Muslim world. Neither Palestinians nor Israelis have much faith in the direct talks between the two governments engineered by the United States. As Israelis celebrate President Barack Obama's predicament, Palestinians blame him for backing out of promises he made before polls.

Besides the high-walls built by Israelis to restrict movements of Palestinians, the hate between two communities has grown to the point of no return. To avoid eye contacts with Palestinians, in the old city of Jerusalem, some Jews even walk to their homes through roofs rather than covered alleys full of Arab shops.

An influential section within Israeli government and Palestine Authority do recognise a two-state formula based on pre-1967 positions leaving the control of Jerusalem open for negotiations, trust deficit between the two communities, PAs declining political clout, Israelis attempts of colonization and practicing a form of apartheid adds road blocks towards a peaceful resolution. There is a total divorce between Jewish and Muslim communities. They don't want to live together. Earlier majority of Jews were not in favour of a Palestine state. But now all opinion polls suggest an overwhelming majority supports a separate Jewish and Palestine state, says Khalid Abu Tomeh, the only Arab journalist working for The Jerusalem Post, a Jewish right wing newspaper.

International director of American Jewish Council Rabbi David Reisner also agrees that over 70 per cent Israelis were favouring a separate and an independent Palestine as they were threatened by the growth rate of Muslims in the Arab world. The birth rate of Arab World and Muslim World is way beyond us. We will be eliminated relatively in a short period of time. So we have urgency to have peaceful resolution than anyone else, he told a group of visiting Indian journalists. He maintains that resolution of this conflict would impact Islamic relations with the West as well, thereby having salutary effects in Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan as well. But his poser is, whether Israelis can trust Palestinians who are baying for each other's blood. If Israeli security forces would not part them, the Al-Fatah and Hasam would bomb each other first than Tel Aviv, agrees Abu Tomeh.

On the ticklish issue of Jewish settlements, Rabbi says, their extraction from Palestine territory was necessary. We have to get out of West Bank. There you are in a situation that between river Jordan and Mediterranean Sea we will be in a minority. The idea of a Jewish state is not going to be viable unless we establish a separate Palestine state, he said.

A top Israeli official also told delegation that in 2000, Israel had offered to divide Al-Aqsa compound with Jews praying below the ground and rest of all vested to Muslims. We had offered to give its trusteeship to Saudi Arabia, European Union or to the United Nations, the official at the Israeli Foreign Office said.

Leading Jewish analyst Amotz Asa-El says, Israel's attempts to re-engineer and maneuver Middle East history have been humbled. Making a difference between Muslim world rulers and streets, he calls for a chemical dialogue before a physical one, believing that idea of annihilation of Israel and hate for Jews amongst Muslims was unbearable. Taking a different line from Rabin, he calls for waiting an identical situation that changed Eastern Europe following the collapse of Soviet Union. That may happen to Muslim world as well, where human development index was abysmal. He says democracy was more important than preventing fundamentalists coming to power, which complicates the situation. In a democratic election let them rule. If they don't come to the expectations of people who want better lives, they will have to face people. We let Hamas to win elections and they are ruling Gaza. But for last five years, they are hardly able to deliver to people, maintains Asa-El, who is also Middle East commentator for The Wall Street Journal.

Palestinians, however, express doubts at the political ability of Benjamin Netanyahu heading a fragile coalition in Tel Aviv. He is facing a no-confidence motion almost every Monday, devoting most of this time to save his government. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Advisor in Negotiations Affairs Department Xavier Abu Eid recounts concessions his alliance had made in 1988. We relinquished claim to all of historic Palestine and agreed to settle for just 22 per cent of original homeland. We recognised Israel on the remaining 78 per cent and also decided to engage Israel in direct negotiations. But we want Netanyahu to say, 1967 borders and he will not, says Abu Eid, himself a Christian Palestine.

On the tiffs with rival radical groups, he maintains that Hamas was not a problem, but occupation was an issue. In Cairo we have agreed with Hamas to put any agreement with Israel to referendum and we stand by it, he said. Seeking urgency of the resolution of this conflict, he believes that over 237,000 American forces were engaged from Iraq to Kabul just because of this conflict.

Many Palestinians on the streets of West Bank, however, have loads of complaints against their rulers. Though remembering Yasir Arafat for his dedication for their cause, little sympathy is left for the PLO. A Palestine journalist confided that Arafat used 10 billion dollars of international aid for building casinos instead of people's welfare. He gave his wife 100,000 dollars a month to shop in Paris. Tracing the events that led rise of radical Hamas, Abu Tomeh says the non-deliverance of Arafat led people to go in the lap of radicalization. He said even Christians and core secularists also voted for Hamas in 2006 elections held under the suggestion of George Bush ignoring warnings from Israel and PLO that Hamas will win polls.

Irony, however, is while the US allowed the Hamas to contest polls without any conditions; they went to losing party the PLO with money to bring down the democratically elected government of Hamas, creating two Palestine states. PLO is ruling West Bank with the help of Israeli Defence Forces. They will collapse if the forces withdraw, he maintains. But the popularity of the Hamas is mostly linked to the sanctions being imposed by the West. They draw sympathy and don't get blamed for non-deliverance.