

Homage To Fallen Troopers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi places a wreath on of the coffins of a trooper, killed in the suicide bombing masterminded by a Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad.



Indian Army's General Officer Commanding of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon, center, speaks as Inspector General of Police Swayam Prakash Pani, left, and Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) operation Zulfikar Hassan sit by his side at a press conference in Srinagar on, Tuesday.(AP Photo/Umar Meraj)

JeM Leadership In Kashmir Eliminated

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army on Tuesday said that all the top leadership of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) outfit have been eliminated by security forces in the Kashmir Valley within 100 hours of the terror attack in which 40 CRPF troopers were killed.

Addressing a joint press conference with the state police and the Central Reserve Police Force at the Badamibagh Cantonment Headquarters of army's 15 corps, Lieutenant General, K.J.S. Dhillon,

commander of the Chinar Corps said: "In less than 100 hours of the terror attack, we have eliminated the top leadership of the JeM that was being directly handled by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Pakistan Army.

"We were tracking the top JeM cadres ever since February 14," he said. Security forces ringed a militant hideout in Pinglena village, just 10 km from the Thursday's attack site, triggering a gun

battle Sunday that continued intermittently till Monday evening.

They killed three militants of the Pakistan-backed JeM, two of them Pakistani nationals identified as Kamran and Abdul Rashid alias Ghazi Umar. Besides, a Major, three soldiers and a civilian were also killed in the initial burst of gunfire by the militants.

"So many Ghazis have come and gone. Whosoever picks up a gun against the country will be killed," he asserted.

India Suspends Key Bus Service To POK

MUZAFFARABAD: India halted a key bus service with the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir, cutting the only land route linking the divided Himalayan region, Pakistani and Indian officials said Wednesday.

According to a Pakistani official, Shahid Mehmood, Indian authorities suspended the bus service this week without explanation. The development comes amid escalated tensions between Pakistan and India in the wake of last week's deadly suicide bombing in Kashmir against Indian paramilitary troops. At least 40 Indian soldiers were killed in Thursday's attack, which New Delhi blamed on Islamabad.

Pakistan condemned the attack but cautioned India against linking it to the bombing without an investigation.

An Indian official confirmed the service was halted on Monday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The bus service between Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's part of Kashmir, and Srinagar, the capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, was suspended so suddenly that travel-

ers only learned about it when they went to the terminal. Private cars, motorcycles and other forms of transportation have long been banned.

The bus line, launched in 2005, served to reunite families on separate sides of the heavily militarized Line of Control.

"I came to Muzaffarabad from Rawalpindi to welcome my cousin but was told that no bus will come from Srinagar," said Zareena Bibi, a 43-year-old Pakistani woman.

Shehzada Akhtar, a 56-year-old woman from the Shopian area in Indian-controlled Kashmir, said she was prevented from traveling Monday following a death in her family on the other side of the line.

"I could not go to see my ailing uncle in 2016 when there was some tension between India and Pakistan," Akhtar explained. "Now when my uncle has passed away, I am again unable to share grief with my beloved cousins."

Also Wednesday, Indian official Rajesh Kumar said authorities were investigating the killing by fellow inmates of a jailed Pakistani held in the Indian city of Jaipur. trolled Kashmir.

Former Maldives President Held On Money Laundering Charges

MALE, Maldives: A Maldives court ordered the arrest and detention of former President Yameen Abdul Gayoom on Monday on charges of money laundering.

The criminal court in Male ordered Yameen held in custody after prosecutors argued at a hearing that he could attempt to influence witnesses.

Yameen was charged with money laundering for alleged involvement in the embezzlement of Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corp. funds.

Police say investigators found \$1 million in Yameen's bank account allegedly linked to a deal to lease public islands for tourism development in the Maldives.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih also suspended two Cabinet ministers - Ahmed Maloof and Akram Kamaludeen - over \$33,000 allegedly found in each of their accounts from the same resort development deal.

Yameen told the court he didn't know that \$1 million had been transferred in to his account.



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